# WORLD SOCCER

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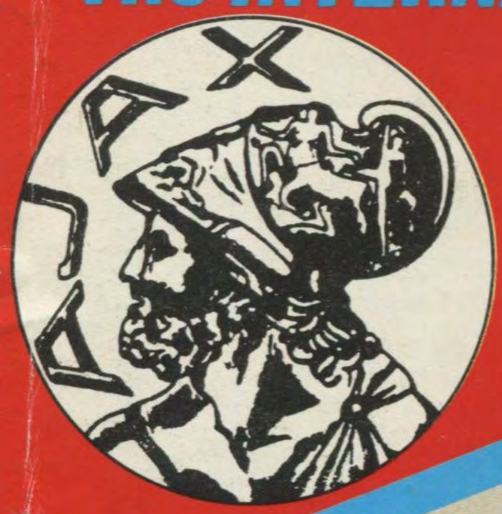
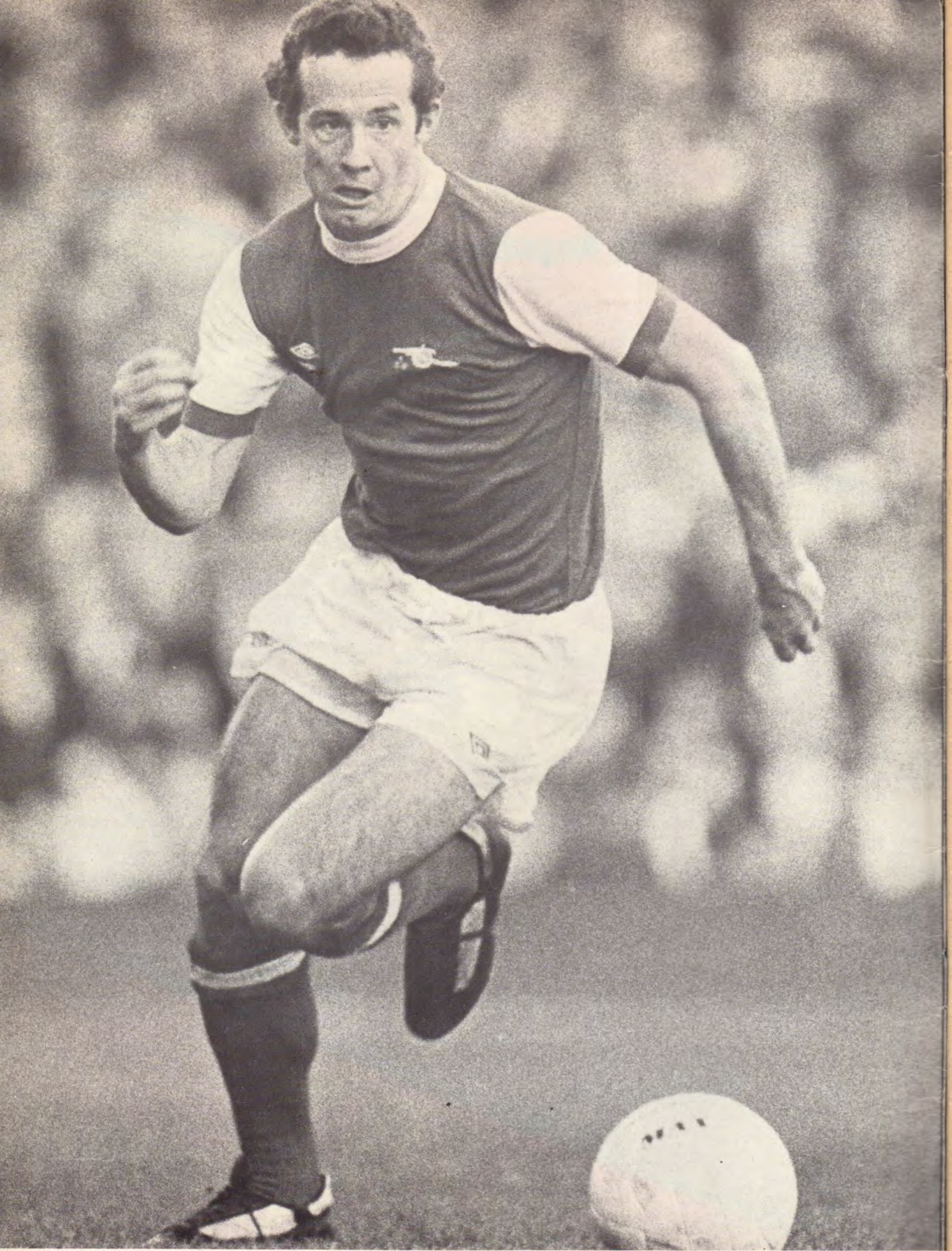



# AJAX OF AMSTERDAM



# LIAM BRADY Arsenal

World SOCCER

# REVIE
## Victory or humiliation?

**DON REVIE, the former England team manager, won his High Court appeal against the Football Association's ten-year ban against him taking-up a managerial appointment in England, but at the cost of his reputation being brought into disrepute.**

The Judge, Mr. Justice Cantley, called Revie "greedy, selfish and deceitful." He referred to his conduct in quitting his job with England as a "sensational and notorious example of disloyalty, discourtesy, selfishness and a disgraceful breach of duty".

But it enables Revie to take up the £10,000 a year consultancy agreement with his former club Leeds United from January, though he intends to continue fulfilling the remaining 21 months of his £340,000 contract with the United Arab Emirates national team.

The ban was declared invalid because Professor Sir Harold Thompson, the chairman of the FA, was considered to have been a biased member of the Commission which tried Revie, scarcely concealing his dislike of the England manager and his methods.

This might not be the end of the matter between the FA and Revie, however. The FA were told by the Judge that they could proceed against him over alleged payments to Southampton captain Alan Ball after Revie's libel action on the subject against the *Daily Mirror* is either heard or withdrawn.

There is also a possibility that another FA Commission will look at other matters concerning the former England team manager.

**Michel Platini, the St. Etienne and French international striker rises to beat Firos the Salonic defender for a head at goal in their UEFA Cup third round, first leg, clash.**

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# Dundee United triumph

**DUNDEE United won the first major trophy in their 86-year history when they beat Aberdeen in the Scottish League Cup Final replay by three clear goals.**

**But, ironically, they had to go down the road to Dens Park, the home of their rivals, Dundee, to achieve the honour.**

**The original match at Hampden Park was watched by one of the smallest crowds to see a major competitive final on the ground when only 27,173 fans turned up. But the replay crowd topped this at 28,933 and the gates had to be closed, with many fans unable to gain admittance.**

**A goal in each half by Willie Pettigrew and a late effort from Paul Sturrock gave Dundee United their superiority, won them £20,000 in prize money on the way and secured a place in next season's UEFA Cup at the same time.**

# GERMANY'S FIVE GO THROUGH

*WEST Germany's five representatives all came through the third round of the UEFA Cup intact and have joined St. Etienne (France), Lokomotive Sofia (Bulgaria) and Zbrojovka Brno (Czechoslovakia) in the quarter-finals.*

*The most convincing of these five successes came from Kaiserslautern, who slammed Diosgyor 6-1 in the second leg though the Hungarians had a man sent off.*

*Lokomotive Sofia qualified on the away goals rule after losing 2-1 in the Soviet Union to Dynamo Kiev, leaving the tie 2-2 on aggregate.*

# Bowles transfer

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST'S £200,000 capture of Queen's Park Rangers and former England international Stan Bowles came in an attempt to end a slump in the playing fortunes of the European Cup holders.**

Manchester-born Bowles has thus joined his sixth League club, having started his career with his local club Manchester City and after spells with Bury and Crewe Alexandra moved to Carlisle United.

Queen's Park Rangers paid £110,000 for his services and he made over 250 League appearances alone for them. At the end of last season he had reached 100 League goals, though his total for the 1978–79 season was just one and that from the penalty spot.

Forest are clearly hoping that he will replace in the midfield area the talent sadly lacking since the departure of Archie Gemmill to Birmingham City in the close season.

# A SHORTAGE OF WINGERS IN ENGLAND

**ENGLISH league football would be considerably brighter if wingers were to come back into fashion. Ron Greenwood re-introduced two wingers to the England team more than two years ago to beat Italy decisively at Wembley, and proved that wingers can open up even the tightest defences.**

Some clubs have flirted with wingers, and indeed there are some about among English clubs, but either through accident or design, there is still a distinct shortage.

By no means can all First Division wingers lift the level of their game to the standards required in international football today, so it follows that the more there are, spread around the top English clubs, the greater the choice available for England.

Most clubs still cing to the 4-4-2 formula to which everyone switched after England won the World Cup in 1966 with only two men up. I predicted then in World Soccer that it would not be in the interests of the English game in the long term.

For a while after 1966, many foreign clubs and national sides followed the successful English formula of having only two central strikers upfield, but wisely the best coaches soon reverted to playing with wingers. So it was that four years later when Brazil won the World Cup in Mexico with two wingers, the rest of the world was quickly able to adapt, and in world terms, wingers came decisively back into fashion.

West Germany won the World Cup in 1974 with two striking wingers in Grabowski and Holzenbein (who was only a deputy for the unfit Heynckes) and in 1978 Argentina also played with wingers.

But the English game generally still sticks to 4-4-2, and this point was highlighted recently when through the loss of form suffered by Peter Barnes, the West Brom left winger, Ron Greenwood wisely omitted him from the team against Bulgaria, and had to play without a left winger.

I am not suggesting that the exciting young Tony Woodcock did not merit inclusion in the side, but with Mr. Greenwood deciding to give other players a game and leave out Steve Coppell, England played for the first time since the Wembley game against Italy without even one recognised winger.

The new-look England were good enough to take out Bulgaria at Wembley, but it must be recognised that the Bulgarians were a very poor side indeed, and in the final stages of the European Championship in Italy in June, England will meet far more formidable opposition.

Wingers will then be vital, as they will be in the 1982 World Cup in Spain, for not only will the defences be far tighter than the Bulgarian rearguard, everyone else will be playing with wingers, and unless the English clubs can produce them, England could well suffer from the dearth of wingers, and fail to do well.

Regretfully, at the moment there are no really top grade wingers good enough to stand in for Coppel or Barnes when either or both are unfit or out of form.

West Brom's Laurie Cunningham looked a very exciting prospect during the 1978-79 League campaign but he is now with Real Madrid who are notoriously reluctant to honour clauses in contracts that demand the release of foreign players for competitive internationals.

Not only has Cunningham been refused permission to join the England squad when chosen, Uli Stielicke of West Germany was also withheld from the West German team against Wales, contrary to his contract.

**Stielicke later insisted after that he would fly to Germany for his country's key game at home to Turkey just before Christmas, with or without permission. But more than that, I feel that having had two or three bites at an England shirt, Cunningham cannot raise his game to the required level, so even if he is released by Madrid, he will not fill the bill.**

Coppell and Barnes are, or course, quite different in style. Barnes is like the old fashioned wingers of the fifties, an out and out striker by nature though unfortunately he does not get many goals himself. But on form he is the best, if not the only left winger available for England.

Naturally left sided players are difficult to find for any position but really good left wingers are at a premium everywhere, and bearing in mind that I feel sure that more and more English front players of all kinds are going to sign for foreign clubs, it means that here at home, we MUST set out to produce more wingers at club level.

If Barnes is naturally a winger who stays upfield, Coppell is what I call a half and half player. With England in possession he moves up to become an orthodox right winger, positioning wide, raiding down the flanks and getting in good crosses as well as going inside to get a few goals himself.

When I first saw Coppell he was an

England winger Peter Barnes.

# says ERIC BATTY

orthodox striker, a little quicker off the mark than he is now, and really able to give all but the very best left backs a real roasting.

He adapted his play to adopt his present style to fit in with Manchester United's team play which at that time proved very rewarding. Almost everyone in the team had to follow the play: up when in possession and attacking, dropping back to work when they lost the ball. Thus Coppell developed his present style.

But two wingers of contrasing styles like Coppell and Barnes are an ideal balance, and following England's 'wingless wonders' of 1966, it is precisely the formula that Brazilian coach Jorge-Mario Zagallo produced for the successful Brazilian side in 1970.

On the right flank was the converted centre forward Jairzinho who was an out and out striker who scored goals while on the left was Roberto Rivelino who dropped back to spend most of his time in midfield, but went forward when Brazil had possession to lay on chances for others, and also hammer in his occasional thunderbolt shots.

This gave Brazil a nice balanced 4-3½-2½ tactical line-up which I feel is the most suitable for play at top level today, and is in fact the England set-up with Coppell and Barnes.

Woodcock is a left sided central striker and if I feel he needs to play off a recognised centre forward who not only get goals but is a good target that is another matter. With Woodcock and his partner playing well and getting goals, England could still be successful with Coppell.

**But if for any reason Coppell does not play or cannot play, where are England then? As I see it they are in deep trouble.**

All over the world, all the top class international sides are playing with at least one winger, and many of them with two, even if one of them is of the half and half type.

Even Italy had right winger Franco Causio on the right who is a Coppell type, and they, despite what many people said of them in 1978, are still the most defence orientated in the world.

Elsewhere, West Germany have right winger Karl-Heinz Rummenigge who has played a big part in the resurgence of his club Bayern Munich this season and hit a good goal in the 5-1 demolition of Wales as well as playing a general part in the creation of the other goals.

East Germany have Riediger on the right, an out and out striker while Hoffman on the left does raid down the flank, but also works.

Poland still have right winger Grzegorz Lato up to get goals, and like Jairzinho, he is the prototype of the modern wing raider.

When the play develops on their side of the field they play an orthodox winger role, but if attacks develop on the left, or up the middle, they get inside to become a right-sided striker looking for goals. Lato does this so well that I have even seen him get goals at what is for him, the far post area!

Holland have Rene Van der Kerkhoff, an orthodox striking right winger and Tahamata. Czechoslovakia have right winger Marian Masny who scored twice recently when brought back against Luxembourg, who played with a packed defence. When France beat the Czechs 2-1 they had two striking wingers in Zimako and Amisse.

**Grzegorz Lato, the Polish right winger who was the top scorer in the 1974 World Cup with seven goals.**

At club level on the continent almost every side has at least one winger and that gives their national team manager a wide selection from which to choose. But in England the most successful sides are almost all playing without wingers.

Liverpool for example play 4-4-2 with only Dalglish and Johnson up in the centre, and I recall their manager Bob Paisley saying that he blamed himself for playing with three men up when they lost to Manchester United in last season's FA Cup semi final. Clearly Liverpool have found their 4-4-2 formula pays best, and they will not change it until the can be persuaded by a string of bad results.

Tottenham play with only Jones and Armstrong up, even if their gifted midfield or Ardiles, Hoddle and Villa makes them very attractive to watch, while Arsenal also have only Stapleton and Sunderland up.

Everton play with only two up and in my opinion are suffering for it because their twin strikers Latchford and Kidd are going through a bad patch and they have no option but to play on in their present style and try to play their way back into form. But the inclusion of a winger would add a new dimension to their play and open up all sorts of different possibilities . . . if they had one who was good enough, and manager Gordon Lee was to be persuaded away from 4-4-2.

Some managers I have spoken to, tell me that they would like to field at least one winger — if they could lay their hands on one — but they are in very short supply at the moment in England, and can seldom be bought.

In any case, as with the problems of goalscoring central strikers whose transfer fees have been inflated ridiculously to the £1 million plus mark, it is up to the clubs to try and produce their own front players.

I know it will not be easy because youngsters today are not as naturally skilled as their predecessors, and in addition the vast majority of young players have decided against playing up front because of all the kicking and general foul play they are subjected to with little or no protection from referees.

A new, consistent, and retained 'get tough' signal from the Football League would help. I remember some years ago when referees were instructed to stamp out *tackling* from behind, I saw defenders looking like lost sheep because they were afraid to *get stuck in*.

Such a campaign, sustained indefinitely would help persuade many gifted young players to try and play up front, but in the final analysis it is up to the clubs to produce front players and wingers. They are trying desperately to produce their own central strikers . . . because it is very, very costly not to, but I feel sure that most club managers have settled for 4-4-2 without wingers because they feel that is the best way to play, giving maximum insurance against defeat.

That must change or England will be left behind. Even now the England team could fail to achieve a success that I think is within their grasp if they were unable to field Coppell for any reason and if Barnes fails to recover his best form, for there are no recognised deputies.

And in the long term the national side will be left behind unless the clubs voluntarily decide to bring wingers back into fashion. Ron Greenwood is at the mercy of the clubs for he can only field the players that the clubs produce and at the moment the signs are that most clubs have no intention of seeking to bring on good young wingers.

# PERSONAL OPINION
## by Leslie Vernon

# HILL'S T WORTHY

KEVIN Keegan, Laurie Cunningham, and now Tony Woodcock! Who will be the next? Liam Brady? Ray Clemence? The Torquay outside-right? The scare stories on the back pages of our national newspapers made the blood go cold with fright as they rang the alarm bells concerning the departures of our finest players.

There is no real danger, of course, the panic, like the news of the death of Mark Twain, was premature. One paper, the *Daily Mail*, and its illustrious writer, Jeff powell, even talks of Common Market machinations (sic) concerning the bargain sale of Woodcock.

What bargain? £650,000 represents a great deal of money for Cologne, it was a new West German record transfer fee, and the second highest transfer sum paid on the international market. (Cruyff cost more to Barcelona!)

The 'trouble' is that the foreigners have a sensible system and we haven't. They acquire the services of players for limited periods and pay accordingly. They have a greater respect for the freedom of an individual to choose his employers, and following common law, the clubs are unable to restrict a citizen (a footballer) to better himself.

Our archaic transfer system is in ruins due to the recklessness of certain clubs, greed for success, and the "freedom of contract" charter which was long overdue. It is not the foreign clubs' fault that we regard someone like the highly-talented Liam Brady as a £2 million player — there is simply no such animal on the Continent, bar Italy, where confetti money is used to underwrite such monstrous deals.

The loss of quality players is painful, but at the same time, in our League, we have now Argentinian, Dutch, Yugoslavian and Polish internationals, and it is all part of a healthy development in a world game with international common language.

As I wrote earlier, our clubs have the perfect safeguard to protect their investments. When they buy a player at an inflated price, they have to offer him a long-term contract or refuse to sign him in the first place. But don't expect the foreigners to ignore our talented players, or when they make an approach for them, do so at our inflated valuation.

They simply cannot afford to pay such ridiculous sums, and even if they could, they would be stupid to do so. We must put our house in order, as John Camkin suggested recently.

He ought to know, as he is the paid executive of the Managers' and Secretaries' Association. So forget about the witchhunts, accept the fact that if a player wants to go abroad at the end of his contract, there is no power on earth that can stop him, and that the realistic fee the Continentals are able to offer is more in keeping with football sanity than our sky-high figures, which bear no relation to box office takings, income, and the value of the player to the club.

Reforms are needed, and this month, I am indebted to Jimmy Hill for putting forward a 10-points' plan to improve our football.

Jimmy is the chief executive of Coventry City, a full-time BBC commentator on the game and a part-time husband, as he himself put it in the witness box at the High Court on the occasion of the Revie-case.

Let me look at Hill's 10 commandments as they were published in *The Sun*, and see whether they would indeed improve our football or not — they are certainly revolutionary.

The trouble is, of course, that whenever someone puts forward such proposals, the wise men in power nod their collective head in agreement, but nothing ever happens . . .

1. *"Every League club apprentice taking a two-week refereeing course to promote a better understanding of the game."*

What an excellent idea! It has long been my contention that players do not really understand the laws of the game. 'Dissent', that most unnecessary of offences, could be cut down considerably if players would realise what the referees are trying to do.

2. *"Abolition of the five per cent signing-on levy for transferred players.*

Hill explained: "It does a lot of damage, especially with players who don't move and consider they lose out on loyalty." I do not agree with that recommendation, because it would open the floodgates to even more blatant blackmail. We all know that despite the five per cent levy, under-the-counter payments are made to players when they move. But at least their demands are regulated by their transfer fees, and if a club insists on working within the framework of the regulations, they are able to do so.

3. *"Every League team to include two players born within a 20-mile radius of the ground."*

A novel suggestion which would encourage local talent. Youngsters would gravitate towards their nearest League club, knowing that they have an opportunity of early promotion into the first team.

4. *"All clubs in the First and Second Divisions to have six telephone lines manned during working hours. Managers to be available to the media for one hour each day."*

Have you ever tried to telephone a League club? The number is usually engaged or alternatively, there is simply no answer. Such a radical move as six open lines would solve the problem, and would be a great service to the public. After all, they are willing to spend money on tickets — why make it so difficult for them? I am not so sure about the manager's duty to be on call every day. There are a lot of cranks about who would 'phone up with crackpot ideas, criticisms, etc. This is obviously an American idea, where the game has to be sold, unlike here, where it sells itself. Attendances could be higher, of course, but a chat with the manager might have the opposite effect.

5. *"Ten per cent of gate receipts to be spent on ground improvements as a condition of League membership."*

Agreed. We have written a great deal about the "barnyard conditions" of most of our League grounds, a fixed sum ought to be put aside to improve those facilities. But ten per cent might be too much at Manchester United, and too little at Stockport. Instead of a figure related to gate receipts, I would like to see a compulsory amount on the sliding scale, division by division. This would be more realistic, and eventually, more beneficial. On the other hand, a club might spend all their money from this fund building a new stand — legislation isn't really the full answer.

6. *"Three points for a win and one for a draw – because it would stop teams settling for a draw."*

This is also a good idea — on the face of it! How do you stop visiting teams playing for a draw? One point is still better than none, and away victories are not getting any more frequent this season. Last month I wrote about the Russian experiment, which didn't stop teams playing for (or rather finishing with) a draw, even when they didn't get any points for it at all. No artificial points' system has managed to do this, not even a goal bonus, which operated in Australia for a time, and which, I believe, is still in force in the USA. UEFA tried to encourage attacking football by introducing the "away goals" ruling in their competitions. Yet, away teams are still notoriously defensive in the UEFA Cups, relying on spasmodic counter-attacks to snatch a goal. I would rather

Former England manager Don Revie, with his wife Elsie, arrives at the Law Courts during his recent legal battle against the Football Association.

# EN POINT PLAN OF ATTENTION

see the back-pass to the goalkeeper from outside the penalty box outlawed, and the short-corner introduced. The game would only change in character if we change the rules that govern the playing of it — not the points' system!

*7. "A 'second degree' penalty with a free shot at goal from the 18-yard line for any sending-off offence or the so-called 'professional foul' in any area."*

Bravo! I suggested this reform ages ago, and I would go even further. A referee should have the right to award a 'second degree' penalty for any violent offence or for concerted dissent. This would make the game cleaner, more enjoyable to watch and perhaps even less 'dangerous' to play. The clogging has to stop!

*8. "Free-kicks pushed forward ten yard for opposing players showing dissent."*

This is an old chesnut, and I am not sure about it, because it might cause an uproar when implemented by a referee. It is hard enough to keep 'the wall' about ten yards away, a free kick further forward would delay the kick once again. And what happens in-and-around the penalty box? We could finish up with a direct free kick (!) from inside the box, with the wall lined-up on the goal-line . . .

*9. "A 35-yard line to reduce the number of off-side decisions and midfield bottle-necks."*

This proposition is self-explanatory, and I am not qualified to comment on it because I haven't seen the American experiment with it. If it works there, no reason why it shouldn't work here as well. It would open-up play to a certain extent, that's for sure.

*10. "All managers and players to have complete freedom of speech."*

Is there such a thing in life as complete freedom of speech? I don't think so. Sadly, we are all limited by convention, loyalty, etc. The 'bringing the game into disrepute' charge — subject of the recent Revie case as well — cannot be abolished, because there are certain aspects of the game which must be protected from those who are willing to make money out of 'cheap' revelations. Football is an emotional game, and shortly after the final whistle, people might say things they regret later.

I believe in freedom of speech, but not in the freedom to wound someone else's pride, to criticise someone else's conduct. In this context, it is worth mentioning that referees must also be protected to a certain extent from ill-informed comment. Incidentally, it occurred to me that when the FA charge someone with 'bringing the game into disrepute', they are prejudiced by definition, otherwise they would not level the accusation.

Yet, this was the cornerstone of the very interesting Revie-case, which is still subjudice as I write these notes, so I can't comment on it. I noticed that while Sir Harold Thompson was cross-examined, the Clerk of the Court was busy filling-in his pools coupon. The mundane and the deeply serious aspects of football were there for all to see. I found it fascinating!

As for the Hill reforms — let's start a campaign for the good points in it. Perhaps someone, somewhere will listen . . .

**Reinaldi (left), one of the many internationals in the Talleres line-up, beats River Plate goalkeeper Fillol to score the first goal in Talleres' 3-2 national championship win. Fillol saved his team from a heavier defeat. The match was played at Cordoba's World Cup stadium which Talleres has been filling for most home games.**

# TALLE

**by Eric Weil**

**In Argentina:**
**TALLERES THE FIRST QUALIFIERS**

**TALLERES (Cordoba) — the team of all the talents, including World Cup winners Luis Galvan, Tarantini, Oviedo and Valencia as well as several other internationals, but who are not in the Argentine first division — became the first qualifiers for the quarter-finals of the national championship (in which provincial champions join the leading first division clubs) with two games to go.**

Atletico Tucuman, another non-first division team, needed a point to become the second qualifiers — an unusual situation in any other country. It added fuel to the argument that the first division must be reorganised now to bring in all the strong provincial clubs — also because the current national championship showed that the highest gates were being taken in the provinces while in Buenos Aires too many matches on the same day were chasing fewer and fewer spectators.

In fact Talleres — who in spite of their success, only rarely hit top form — already have been invited to play in next season's first division under a new rule qualifying any team which reaches the national championship finals twice in three years, a move which is being strongly opposed by the Cordoba league which does not want to lose the club. But why all the talk about Talleres? They were finally beaten for the first time in the twelfth game and it took another Cordoba teams, Instituto, to do it by 4-2 . . . and what a high-quality match it was!

Meanwhile, the national championship was building up to the most exciting finish in its 13-year history. With two matches to go and only Talleres qualified as one of the top two teams in each seven-team section to go forward into the quarter-finals, 20 of the 27 other teams still had a chance, including all seven in section C.

First Division champions River Plate were making heavy weather of it without suspended half Alonso over the final stage. They dropped a 1-0 decision to Newell's Old Boys in Rosario, lost 3-2 to Talleres in Cordoba and drew 1-1 in the classic at Boca Juniors — all difficult matches — in between two unconvincing wins against two provincial sides, but at press-time they were hanging on to the second qualifying place behind Talleres in group B. In the "classic", as in most other matches recently, World Cup goalkeeper Fillol's contribution was invaluable. Each team dominated one half and the 1-1 score can be considered fair, but Boca's second-half equaliser, following a blatant off-side by Bordon, was argued about for days.

Boca's hero was also goalkeeper Gatti — a former international — as he had been in several matches recently, but the popular club may not qualify for the finals. The 1-1 draws in both meetings during the national championship left Boca Juniors still leading 43 wins to 42 in 116 official meetings with traditional rivals River Plate since the 1930 start of professional soccer here.

Little Argentinos Juniors, following a poor start and a change of coach (mentioned in last month's *World Soccer*) — which also resulted in changed tactics, principally tighter marking — came back with nine points from five games to stay in contention. But the surge coincided with the return to form of their midfield star, Diego Maradona, who had several poor games after returning exhausted from the Junior World Cup finals in Japan in September. At press-time he is back at the top of the scorers table with Bravo (Talleres), Ischia (Velez Sarsfield) and Sanabria (Huracan) on nine goals (after 12 games).

Pending at press-time was the definition of the derby between neighbour's Independiente and Racing Club which was suspended after 40 minutes, with Racing leading 1-0, when a linesman was injured by a coin apparently catapulted from the stands at Independiente's field. The 50 remaining minutes to be played off were vital to both these big clubs as both were still very much in contention. (Coach Omar Sivori — a former Argentine and Italian international — resigned at Racing Club following disputes with players and officials and was replaced by Carlos Cavagnaro for the last four games.)

**In Colombia:**
**AMERICA WIN SECOND PART . . .**
**MILLIONARIOS BANKRUPT**

**Popular Cali club America, who lost the season's opening championship on goals to Deportivo Cali, won the closing championship to qualify with seven other teams for the semi-final round, while Bogota's defending champions, Millionarios (the millionaires) failed to make it for the first time and are on the point of going into liquidation.**

Millionarios, one of Colombia's first professional clubs, burst into the headlines in the early '50s when they signed numerous internationals at fabulous fees, including some from England — but without paying transfer fees as the country's newly-formed professional league was then not affiliated to FIFA. Later they won 11 Colombian league

River Plate and national team captain, Passarella, tries a sliding tackle on Boca Juniors' new young centre-forward Randazzo, the latter gets away in the Argentine National Championship classic which ended in a 1-1 draw for the second time running, leaving Boca Juniors ahead by 43 wins to 42 in 116 meetings between the two traditional rivals for honours in official professional championships.

# RES QUALIFY

titles (including last season's), were second seven times and represented the country nine times in the Libertadores Cup South American Club Championship. But they have also had more than ten different coaches in the last three seasons, a continual flow of foreign and leading local players . . . constant team changes and squabbling among their officials which have now brought them to the verge of bankruptcy.

This was accentuated by their failure to qualify for the lucrative final round games and, as usual, brought about by their paying players more than they produced in gate money. As a first step all their players have been put on the transfer list to raise the money to pay the clubs obligations, but at press-time there had been no rush to buy.

The semi-final round is being played in two sections between the two top teams of the opening championship and the top two in section A of the closing championship — in both cases Deportivo Cali and America, the top two of the closing championship's section B — Pereira and Nacional and the two other teams (this time four in view of Deportivo Cali and America's double qualification) who had obtained most points in both championships — Atletico Junior (Barranqilla), Independiente Santa Fe (Bogotá), Union Magdalena and Varta Caldas. Matches have been very close — all four were drawn on the first day — with close marking resulting in nine draws and only 25 goals in the first 16 matches.

The top two of each section go into a four-team final round and with two matches to go Atletico Junior tops group A with six points followed by America (4), Nacional and Pereira (3), while Deportivo Cali tops group B with five points ahead of Santa Fe and Union Magdalena (4) and Vartas (3).

**ELSEWHERE . . .**

● IN CHILE, popular Colo Colo, unbeaten in their last 12 matches, are assured of first place with a six-point lead and three matches to go as the First Division goes into recess while Chile faces Paraguay in the two-legged South American Championship final.

● IN ECUADOR, Emelec won the season's second championship while Aucas and Deportive Quito were relegated. The final round was due to start at press-time with the top three teams of each of the two championships taking part and starting with three, two and one bonus points respectively according to their final position. This time three different teams took the top three places in each tournament making the final round a six-team affair and more even with bonus points evenly divided. In fact two of the clubs who had finished in the top three in the first half of the season (Quito's Universidad Catolica and Liga Deportiva Universitaria) just escaped relegation in the second part to be able to participate in the final round.

Final round participants, with bonus points in brackets, are Deportivo Cuenca (3), Liga Deportiva Universitaria de Quito (2), Universidad Catolica de Quito (1), Emelec (3), Tecnico Universitario de Ambato (2) and Deportivo Manta (1). Last season Nacional, now in the B Division, won both halves of the championship and started the final round with six bonus points and as virtual champions.

● IN PERU, the system to decide the championship this season is similar after another change. Universitario topped the two-legged 30-match first division championship and go into the final round for the title with the top eight to play another 14 matches home and away. But Universitario start with a three-point bonus, runners-up Juan Aurich with two points and third-placed Sporting Cristal with one. Defending champions Alianza Lima were joint fourth. Likewise the bottom eight play in a relegation division (with the bottom team going down) and bottom Melgar start with minus three points, while the two teams which finished above them, Juventud La Palma and Atletico Torino, start with minus two and one points respectively. Universitario have one thing going for them — they have won the title every year ending with nine since 1929.

● IN PARAGUAY, Olimpia, Sola de America, Cerro Porteño and River Plate qualified for the final championship round while Capitan Figari was relegated and replaced by promotion winners Nacional. Current champions and Libertadores Cup holders Olimpia made it in spite of losing their next to last match 7-3 to Sol de America, with less than a reserve team while they were in Sweden beating Malmo 1-0 in the first leg of the Inter-Continental Cup.

## AUSTRIA
## by Arthur Rotmil

The Austrian defensive wall against Scotland.

# WHY THE MYSTERY FORTUNES?

**IT IS indeed a paradox, probably peculiar to Austria, that at the time when the national team is once again a European power, the club football has hit rock bottom. All four Austrian clubs engaged in European competitions were eliminated in the very first round!**

Yet, the national team continues to hog the limelight. Austria's return to the top of the European Championship Group 2, following that splendid 2-1 win over Portugal in Lisbon, might have clinched qualification for the finals. Only Belgium — if they could beat Scotland in Glasgow — were in a position to overtake them. The eventual outcome on December 19 is not known as I write, but nothing should detract from this assessment of the present Austrian XI: It is indeed one of the best in Europe right now and results for the past year confirm this.

The Austrians enjoyed a successful World Cup in Argentina, they topped a group which included Brazil, Spain and Sweden and were the only team to beat the then reigning world champions West Germany. Defeats by Holland and Italy prevented them from advancing into the last four. Since Argentina the Austrians have played 11 matches losing only once — to Portugal in Vienna, but they got their revenge most recently, as mentioned.

In that period Austria beat among others, both Scotland and England. The most pleasing win perhaps, was the 4-3 over England in Vienna. It was the first time in fifteen years that England had conceded more than three goals in a match — since Brazil beat them 5-1 in Rio in 1964. Austria is incidentally one of only two countries (the other is West Germany), who have beaten England since Ron Greenwood became manager in September 1977.

What is so remarkable about the Austrian success story, is the fact that no fewer than seven regulars are playing abroad and in four different countries at that! Goalkeeper Koncilia is with Anderlecht in Belgium. Defenders Pezzey and Mirnegg with Eintracht Frankfurt and MSV Duisburg respectively, in West Germany. Midfielder Jara is also with Duisburg, while Hattenberger stars for VfB Stuttgart. Striker Welzl plays for Alkmaar (Holland) and the other famous goalgetter Krankl, for Barcelona, in Spain.

It is of course a difficult task facing national team manager Karl Stotz to check on the form of his candidates, to obtain their release and get them together before an international. Because of their commitments with foreign clubs the players cannot be assembled in a training camp prior to the match. The manager has tried to solve this problem by arranging tests against club sides like Germany's Hertha Berlin and 1860 Munich. Unfortunately, several of the candidates could not get their release from foreign clubs and therefore such games weren't quite as useful as it was intended.

Stotz is forced to improvise and he has just two days (in Belgium, Holland and Spain they play on Sundays), in which to mould the side into an effective unit. Stotz (52), has done wonders since his appointment in the summer of 1978. He took over from the World Cup "hero" Helmut Senekowitsch. It wasn't an easy beginning, for some FA officials and certainly the public at large were still incensed over Senekowitsch having been pushed out by the FA president Karl Sekanina. Stotz is in fact a "protégé" of Sekanina; he is a former international full back (41 caps) and looks back on a long and distinguished career with one of the country's most famous clubs FK Austria. He managed the club too for a while but eventually left to become director of a fashion house in Vienna whose chief Böhm was formerly president of FK Austria. Stotz gave up a better paid job to become national team manager at a salary of £2,500 a month.

He has his own philosophy on football, remembering that he belongs to a generation weaned on the world famous Austrian national side, the "Wunderteam" of the 'thirties. As a member of another successful National side in the post-war era, Stotz is determined that Austria should once again become a world power. He is naturally at a disadvantage, with many key men on service abroad, but takes a view often expressed in England nowadays. These players in such strong soccer countries as West Germany, Spain and Holland can only learn and become better footballers for the experience.

Undoubtedly, some of Austria's foreign "mercenaries" would not have improved to such an extent, had they remained in the modest National League. Midfielders Hattenberger and Jara have developed into first-class players in the Bundesliga where every match is tough, it demands full effort and concentration. Kreuz, who had a spell with Feyenoord in Holland, before returning home, is also a vastly improved striker — cum-midfielder.

The 'libero' Pezzey stunned England's defence by coming up and planting two great headers, first past Shilton and then past Clemence in that 4-3 win, in Vienna. In the same match Welzl scored with two unstoppable low drives from the edge of the penalty area, after dribbling past defenders with confidence and style. And the Welzl (who in August suffered a broken leg and only recently recovered), shocked Portugal in Lisbon where he bamboozled four defenders and shot past the 'keeper for the vital first goal. In that game Schachner demonstrated once more his quality, hitting the winner with a dipping volley worthy of a "Goal of the Year" tag.

This same Schachner, incidentally, is currently running away at the head of the European League's scorers list and is clear favourite to win the 'Adidas' Golden Boot award presented annually. With such lethal strikers at his disposal Austria's manager Stotz can look forward with confidence to the battles ahead. If not in the European finals, then certainly in the World Cup 1982.

# The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

THE question is, which England? Which England will Ron Greenwood take with him to Italy for the Nations Cup Finals?

Will it be an England that plays 4-4-2 (or 4-2-4, if you wish to be precise and pedantic) or an England which plays 4-3-3? Will it have true wingers or not? Will it, in other words, play on the pattern it followed when it won 5-1 in Northern Ireland, or on the very different one it pursued when it won that dull game 2-0 at home to Bulgaria?

(In parenthesis, how ineptly the whole thing was handled that foggy night of postponement. Either the game should have been called off as early as possible, at latest by 6 o'clock when prospects seemed very poor, or an extension should have been allowed, in case the fog rolled away, as indeed it did. In the event, the F.A. got the worst of both worlds, and as one who made the trip in vain, I felt sorrier still for all those poor people who had come from miles outside London.)

I have scarcely hidden the fact that my own preference is vastly for 4-3-3, preferably with a half-back who can tackle; and it was 4-3-3, of a sort, which England played against Bulgaria. The important thing, though, is that Greenwood should make up his mind as soon as possible — preferably for 4-3-3! and stick to his last like a good cobbler.

As things stand, the England players would have every excuse for feeling like Pavlovian dogs, perenially subjected to alternating stimuli. The team that scored five goals in Belfast had Stevie Coppell as a deep lying right winger, playing an extremely satisfactory game, in which he set up a couple of the goals. Kevin Keegan was used as an attacking midfielder, with Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock switching, sprinting and poaching up front.

## Gifted

Against Bulgaria, no wingers at all. We might have been back in the days of Good King Alf. No Coppell, no Barnes, no Cunningham. No Keegan either, of course, since Hamburg withdrew him from the game, after it had been postponed. Instead, an attack in which Woodcock and Francis figured again, a good deal less effectively than they did in Belfast, together with a Kevin Reeves who was clearly out of his depth.

Behind them, again, Ray Wilkins, a natural inside-forward, who had played in Belfast, and two players who might be described as wing-halves; an attacking wing-half in the shape of the highly gifted Glenn Hoddle, a traditional wing-half in the much, much slower Ray Kennedy, capable of tackling, but much hampered by his lack of speed.

Teams at all levels, not merely international teams, strive for what the Italians call *automatismi*, those movements, combinations, synchronisations, which simply come as the natural result of players knowing and understanding one another. This, in turn, can be achieved only by constant playing together — unless of course you are lucky enough to have the kind of marvellous if polyglot team out into the field by FIFA against England in October 1953, which found its *automatismi* almost immediately. (Kubala, Boniperti, et al).

Greenwood himself has complained that part of the problem of choosing an England side is that clubs play so many different styles, where abroad they tend to play the same style, making it easier for players to fit in when picked. But here he is varying his own team's style from game to game!

In the background, meanwhile, there lurks the stalwart figure of Bob Latchford. Keegan, judged by his public utterances (no, not the confession that he would like, quite like, to be Prime Minister, though doubtless he'd do better than Mrs Thatcher as a striker for Hamburg) would welcome him. Greenwood seems partial.

I myself mourned for a Tommy Lawton as cross after high cross came uselessly over in the Bulgarian game. But Lawton was Lawton, an incomparable centre-forward; Latchford is Latchford; a very good man at club level. A modern, sweeper, defence would stifle him at international level. To outwit such defences, England must go all out for modernity and surprise, the kind which can be provided by the likes of Keegan, Francis, perhaps Woodcock . . . and Hoddle.

The 22-year-old Tottenham man, first to be capped by England for so many years, deserved all the praise he drew after the Bulgarian game. Like Kenny Sansom, a very

Kees Kist and the Golden Boot

different player, on his debut, he took to international football like a duck to water. All those wonderful skills, that sleight of foot, that lively originality which has been seen in spasms at White Hart Lane, was in evidence; together with his beautifully controlled striking of the ball. Having made a goal for Watson and missed one himself, he at last obtained proper rewards, a poetic rounding off of his performance, with that magnificently struck volley.

Ball artists are rare in English football, but when they do emerge — Buchan, Matthews, Finney, Shackleton, Greaves — they are particularly gifted. Hoddle's control of the ball, his caressing touch, clearly owes much to inborn ability, but judged by the tales of his boyhood, it also owes a great deal to the hours he spent playing with a ball in his back garden. Shades of the great Scottish left winger Alan Morton, the Wee Blue Devil, a natural right-footer who perfected his left foot by endlessly kicking a tennis ball at a hole in his coal shed door.

I hate the ludicrous, paradoxical expression. "work at the game," as in, "our players don't work at the game." Why in all logic should one work at a GAME? But to enjoy playing with a ball, rather than regard it as something of a necessary evil, to be acquired by force and parted with at speed, is the negation of good football.

Hoddle last season had a difficult time of it because Spurs made foolish use of him. Having acquired two Argentine midfield players in Villa and Ardiles, they were like the old woman who lived in a shoe. Now he is being used in his true position, it's another thing entirely; and he can score so splendidly from there, as he showed against Manchester United and Norwich City, lately.

## Limbo

Greenwood had some untypically Puritanical things to say about the value of "disappointment" in football as in life, implying that having confirmed his possibilities, Hoddle might still be thrown straight into limbo. That would be very silly. We haven't so much talent as to be able to afford indulgences of that kind.

Meanwhile, England's opposition is now defined; and very strong it is. I'm glad the Dutch got through; even without Cruyff and Neeskens, they still grace any major competition, while the East Germans have still to rise above compact efficiency. Rudo Krol is in magnificent form as an attacking sweeper, Franz Thijssen of Ipswich adds grace and skill to the midfield, the blond Kist at last seems to be adjusting to the demands of international football. Don't underestimate the Czechs; they were surely not at full throttle when they lost in Paris.

As for the Italians, they continue to win their friendly games, and to be savaged by their own Press, who demand the transfusion of new blood. Bearzot, who knows the chorus is probably orchestrated, must remain patient, if resentful. He has brought into the team such youngsters as Collovati of Milan, Baresi of Inter, and has given a chance to another Inter man in Oriali. To dismember the side now would serve no purpose. Bettago, Causio and Rossi, if in form, would in any case represent Italy's best chance of success. But the pressure on manager and players is abominable.

# Which England will appear?

# Brady for libero?

## by Cian O' Mahony

THE appearance of the Republic of Ireland team to play England at Wembley on February 6 promises to be something more than just another Irish joke.

In the words of Jack Charlton: "Ireland are nobody's pushovers anymore." This has come about for two main reasons: Johnny Giles is the most astute and experienced manager the Republic has ever employed and there are more talented Irish players about now than for many a year — Brady, Lawrenson, Daly, Heighway, Stapleton and David O'Leary forming the backbone of the squad.

In the period of Giles' managership, there have been a series of splendid performances: the 3-0 defeat of Russia in a European championship game, defeat of France in a World Cup qualifying encounter, a 1-1 draw at Wembley with Revie's England, a 0-0 last summer with Argentina, and a point shared with Greenwood's England in Dublin, at the beginning of the present European campaign.

Results like these, against this quality of opposition, are simply unprecedented in the history of the Republic. When it was announced that the World Cup finals were to be extended to include ten European nations, there were hopes that we might perhaps squeeze in, as one of the ten, for the very first time. These hopes received a frightful jolt with the news that in the qualifying rounds, the Republic would have to face no less than three teams entitled to consider themselves among Europe's elite — Holland, Belgium and France.

It is a cruel draw. Still, looked at from the opposite end of the telescope, given present resources, the Republic has never had such a good chance of qualifying. And, put crudely, the three premier nations might just knock enough lumps off each other to give Ireland some hope. But only, I feel, if Giles finds a new form for the team, in which the players at his disposal can best function.

### Inadequate

The present system is inadequate. The 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland, in Belfast, proves it is simply not good enough. How can it then hope to cope against teams in which there are no real weaknesses? This last result has been excused on the grounds that the Republic's creative mid-field players were injured (Brady, Daly and Murphy). Yet a year before, a midfield of Brady, Giles and Daly could achieve no better than a 0-0 draw at home, against the same opposition.

Giles has been praised for the "continental methods" which he employs with the Irish team. The slow building from the back and the emphasis on patient possession, even if it means passing back, reminds me more of the Leeds team, where Giles learned most of his football, than of "continental" soccer. Still, the eschewing of the clodhopper tactic of hacking the ball high, hard and hopeful down the middle is a big step in the right direction.

The Irish goalkeeper almost invariably rolls the ball out to one of the full-backs and it is built from here. But I feel Giles must be even more boldly innovative and employ Liam Brady as a *libero*.

Brady is the shining jewel in Ireland's crown. There is no doubting his skills and his vision, which have been lavishly praised by managers as different as Greenwood and Menotti. But if he persists in his mid-field role, I am convinced his true value will be stifled.

In the English club game the action swings back and forth like a pendulum and is largely concentrated in either penalty-area. Brady, at least, occasionally, gets some room in mid-field and he makes it count. But at the top international level the mid-field is liable to be crowded out.

Players as superbly skilled as Michel Platini and Giancarlo Antognoni failed in the last World Cup for this reason. They weren't given an inch of space to work in by expert man-to-man markers such at Benetti and Gallego, who used both fair means and foul to stop them.

Brady had failed against lesser players. Against Northern Ireland he was comprehensively blotted out by David McCreery. "David didn't give me an inch that day. No matter what I did, I couldn't shake him off. If I did manage to get past him, it wasn't long before he was snapping at my heels again." This is nothing to the treatment he may expect from the Dutch, for example, in the more seriously demanding arena of the World Cup.

Danny Blanchflower was accused, naively, of being "negative" by some members of the southern Irish press because he employed McCreery to mark Brady. In fact, it was a basic exercise in common-sense. Blanchflower saw that the Republic were like a bicycle-wheel in which Brady, at the centre, his spoke-like passes to every point on the circumference. When this centre was isolated, the system broke down. How can this situation be avoided in future? The answer lies in playing Brady deeper.

At first glance, in a country which still thinks in terms of four defenders and three mid-fielders, it might seem a preposterous, "backward" step to remove Brady from the middle and put him in the line of defence. Yet there is an important precedent for this.

Franz Beckenbauer made precisely this move and in do doing, galvanised the West German team to a European championship and a World Cup. English theory is pre-occupied with what could be called the "defensive *libero*", a role exemplified par excellence by Bobby Moore. There is another type of libero, however — the "attacking *libero*", who, although he stands in the line of defenders on the team-sheet, is really a play-maker and attacker in disguise. Beckenbauer pulled back to this deep position to avoid close marking and it worked wonders.

### Inspired

When Beckenbauer played in mid-field he had to make do with poor passes, often with his back to the goal he was attacking. When deep, he acted as puppet-master immediately behind the action, always facing the opposing goal, radiating inspired passes like the rays of a setting sun.

Brady could work the same principle for the Republic of Ireland. Ideally, a pass must not only give possession of the ball to a team-mate. It must release him into action so that a whole momentum is set in motion within the team in which something can happen. The idea in the Irish team is to get the ball to Brady but the build-up is usually ponderous from defence and by the time he receives it he can be well covered. In addition, he is often receiving possession at his boot-laces which means he had to adjust the ball and take off from a standing start. It is as if Ireland's attack only really begins on the half-way line, as soon as the ball reaches Brady.

If the object is to get it to him sooner or later, why not give it to him in the first place, that is, directly rolled from the goalkeeper? The play would then flow from the source and have rhythm and impulse from the beginning. Brady could deliver the highest quality ball to the players in front of him, of a type which he is never fortunate enough to receive. With Grimes released on the left of mid-field, Daly on the right, Brady himself supporting them through the middle, as the attack develops and Heighway and Stapleton up front, there would be something happening right through the team.

It would be necessary to under-pin the mid-field with a defensive mid-fielder in the middle, who could do a man-to-man marking job on a player such as Michael Platini. Mark Lawrenson could do this job and has good enough distribution not to burden the mid-field from a creative point-of-view.

Brady is doubly blessed to fulfil this most demanding of roles because he has the physique to tackle back as well as the vision and passing skill going forward. If Platini or Antognoni had his physique they would make wonderful *liberos*.

I hope this experiment is made. A system which has been defused in Dublin by Northern Ireland and exploded in Belfast, has not hope of succeeding over a period of six matches against the like of Holland, Belgium and France.

# THE DUTCH PHOENIX

## by Cian O'Mahony

**FEW will be surprised to see Holland contesting the final stages of the European championships in Rome this summer. Yet many Dutch observers gravely doubted that the national team would gain qualification in the first place. Everyone accepts Holland's status as one of the real super-powers of world soccer — except, at times, the Dutch themselves!**

Privately, they point to the small number of quality teams in the Dutch league. Publicly, they insist that their best players are either too old or have retired and cannot be replaced. Nevertheless, when it comes down to it, Holland seems to have at least as good a chance of becoming European champions this year as any of the other nations. Is there a connection, perhaps, between the critical attitude which exists towards the national team and its achievements?

Arie Haan, a member of the Dutch World Cup squad in 1978.

All great teams know the bitter aftermath of success — the difficulties of transition and rebuilding. Once the pinnacle has been reached there seems only one direction a team can go — down. It is no exaggeration to say that it is only now that England have begun to show signs of recovering from their success of '66, and Brazil from their's in '70.

But the great tradition begun by Ajax in the early seventies and continued by the international side of '74 has not been allowed to wither. The Dutch have never been allowed to rest on their laurels in an atmosphere of severe and often hostile criticism directed at all players, no matter how famous.

The unflattering comparisons made with the teams of the past do not seem to weigh heavily on the younger players, however. They are proudly stimulated to emulate their predecessors. It is a fruitful partnership between belittlement on the part of the coaches and critics and inherent self-belief on the part of the players. The Dutch know they have the style, technique and tradition to bring them the world championship, in Spain '82, which has so far eluded them — it is a matter of preparing the players.

Holland's powers of self-recovery have been remarkable. Like the Phoneix, she seems born again in her own ashes. It is worth remembering again that immense talent Holland had to leave behind before setting out for Argentina: Van Beveren, undisputed as the country's no. 1 goalkeeper, Hovenkamp, their first choice left-back, Van der Kuylen, P.S.V. captain, whose play-making role was vital to Holland in the qualifying rounds, the prolific Geels, Kist, Golden Boot winner the following year, Cruyff and Van Hanergem, the two all-time greats of Dutch football.

And by the time the preliminary games were over, Rijsbergen and Suurbier were out with injury. How Holland coped, despite these crippling losses, is now history.

Krol playing majestically throughout the tournament, while injured, Poortvliet, Brandts and Wildschut, virtually untried greenhorns, becoming world stars overnight, Haan, after an indifferent start, finding his very best form and putting paid to West Germany and Italy almost single-handed with those epic long-range shots, Rensenbrink, producing probably the most brilliant individualistic performance of the tournament in the 5-1 defeat of Austria, Neeskens, losing nine teeth to the Argentinians but battling on with that rare combination of hard-as-nails toughness and precious skill, Nanninga, fourrth-choice centre-forward, good enough to score in a World Cup final.

After Argentina still more retirements — Jongbloed, Suurbier and Haan, and later too, Rensenbrink (unofficially). Renisbergen and Neeskens depart for the New York Cosmos and their U.S. dollars. Hovenkamp and Kist return, but René van de Kerkhof, Wildschut and Poortvliet suffer an alarming and protracted loss of form. Coach Zwartkruis has to dig deeper and deeper in search of players. Dutch critics complain that he is scraping the bottom of the barrel.

In May '79, for the F.I.F.A. centenary game, Holland send out a team containing no less than five players who were not in the World Cup squad of twenty-two and another, goalkeeper Doesburg, who got no further than a place on the reserve bench. This team faces world champions Argentina, who field nine of the finalists of the previous year as well as Maradona. Yet Holland are still only defeated on a penalty shoot-out, after a very honourable draw.

Unlike, say, England or West Germany, Holland's qualification for Rome was achieved in the end under intense pressure. So already some of the younger players have been stamped in the white heat of the international forge. Bennie Wijnstkers, the young Feyenoord right-back, is likely to be a permanent fixture in the Dutch team in Rome — despite the fact that he has played only three games for his country!

### Crucial

His club-mate, central defender Michel van der Korput was brought in for his first full international in the crucial deciding game against East Germany in Leipzig and was a big success — this in the week Ron Greenwood had said "Interntional sides are not made up of young boys, they're made up of experienced players".

**The view of Zwartkruis seems to be that if a player is international class, there is no reason not to choose him at the earliest opportunity. He has lost no time, either, in blooding the 19-year-old Valke (P.S.V), who has all the hall-marks of a great player in the making.**

What other "new" players are we going to see in Rome? It will depend on what balance of youth and experience Zwartkruis will go for. There is the jugglery of tiny Simon Tahamata on the left-wing — a very different style to the sleek Rensenbrink to be sure, but a very dangerous player.

We could see his Ajax colleague Tscheu La Ling on the opposite wing — once his suspension is over. This is a player of great technique — he is known as "the artist" — with a graceful, mesmeric style. Up to now he has been largely kept out of the team by René van der Kerkhof but if Zwartkruis uses his splendidly bizarre tactic of playing three wingers (!), as he did in Leipzig, then these will be the three.

In mid-field is Johhny Metgod (AZ '67), a player of great craftmanship, whose international career has been interrupted recently by military service. He could eventually move back to succeed Krol as libero.

These then are the young players who will supplement the considerable experience which still remains. Now that the Dutch have qualified they will be harder than ever to beat. In coming from two goals behind to beat the East Germans they have proved again that they are players for the big occasion. The Dutch might under-estimate themselves for their own good but one thing is sure, it is not for the good of others! Let no one be deceived.

# HODDLE – THE FIRST OF MANY!

## says Ken Goldman

Clive Allen, the young prolific scorer at Queen's Park Rangers.

**A CHIP to the far post headed home by Dave Watson, coupled with a flashing side foot shot high into the net and Glenn Hoddle — a shining light in the Spurs side for some time — became an international star overnight.**

The next day the text of the papers and the chat of the spectators was about his sparkling performance. For one who has monitored his progress from the beginning it came as no surprise but also it was a little of a disappointment that he did not play as well as he is capable.

There can be no question that Hoddle is one of the most talented players to be thrown up in British soccer for a generation, especially if he can harness that talent to full commitment over 90 minutes, as he seems to be doing this season.

I may not be his number one fan but I have been lauding his praises *ad nauseam* to my acquaintances for well over four years and wrote in a now defunct magazine in May 1975: "The boy who impressed was Glenn Hoddle, who seemed almost to thread his passes through the eye of a needle. I shall be looking out for Hoddle with special interest over the next few years and hoping he has the necessary skill, character, luck, magnetism or whatever else is important to make him succeed".

That was written after seeing him in a Youth Cup match and in April, 1976, after seeing him play in a reserve game, I observed in the same magazine: "Glenn Hoddle in midfield was the outstanding player on the pitch. Every so often in this sphere of competition one sees a player destined for the top of the tree so that I can only say watch out for Hoddle, he could be a major star of the future."

### Many years

With Hoddle scoring so many goals from midfield these days Spurs and England could be in for a treat for many years to come.

However, I came to write here not to bury all the other English players but to praise the youngsters of whom Hoddle was a prime example. There is so much talent on display these days that it is a sheer pleasure to get out and watch youth and reserve football as well as first team games.

Some of the stars of the future worth considering and who will, I believe, go out and frighten continental opposition with their skill and tenacity over the coming years are on display every week and I feel I must mention some of them in detail.

Two at West Ham, who may help them gain promotion, are Alan Devonshire — a little older than the rest I write of, who was plucked from non-league football and has been picked for the England B side but could not play because of injury.

John Lyall constantly sings his praises and points out that he is one of the few players in the Football League who will pick up the ball and genuinely run at players, trying to cause something to happen.

The power and range of Devonshire in both attack and defence is well worth noting. A young man who has joined him in the Hammers' midfield is Paul Allen, a player whom John Cartwright, the England Youth team manager, made captain of the side and who despite finishing in a team who came third in Yugoslavia in a recent youth team competition, was voted the best player in the competition.

### Losing side

Another youngster thrown into first team football this season is Tony Caton of Manchester City who also finished on a losing side in last year's Youth Cup final but was still the best player on the pitch.

Caton and Allen are in the England Youth team as is a budding "Jimmy Greaves" called Terry Gibson, who also plays for Spurs.

I have seen Gibson, at 14, score for England Schoolboys, at 15 score in early reserve matches and at 16 get a hat-trick in Spurs reserves, while also scoring regularly for England Youth.

As it would appear that goalscoring seems to get harder as the years roll by, Gibson could make an early impact on our game. Goalscoring seems, however, to be an easy art for another Allen — this time Clive Allen of Q.P.R. He even got a hat-trick on his League debut.

Clive is the son of Les Allen, and has much to live up to, as dad won a Cup and League medal with the Spurs' double side.

However, Clive is deadly in front of goal as many a goalkeeper in the First and Second Divisions will testify.

Over the river another son of an ex-Spurs player is attracting attention, He is Shaun Brooks, son of England International Johnny Brooks. Shaun has already captained England schoolboys and played for the England Youth team and much is expected of him.

Many of these players are based in London which is a change from the North and Midlands where so much talent as originated over the past few years but the bread of ability is spread very thickly with the butter of promise all round the country at the moment.

There is Gary Mills, of Nottingham Forest, forcing his way into the side; Lukic, the brilliant goalkeeping prospect now between the posts in the Leeds first team; Mabbutt of Bristol Rovers, whom John Cartwright thinks might surpass them all; Proctor at Middlesbrough; Dennis at Birmingham; Fashanu at Norwich; Buchanan and Peake at Leicester and the list like Breacht's and Weil's Three Penny Opera "line" forms on the right dear now that talent is back in town.

If one could write of Hoddle in 1975 as being a marvellous talent then watch out world, we might just have recreated the mould that will see England top of the world football tree in the forthcoming years.

CAGLIARI CALCIO S.P.A.
**Stadium:** Stadio Sanata Elia Capacity 60,000.
**President:** Mariano Delogu
**Dir. Sportivo:** Luigi Riva
**Trainer:** Mario Tiddia.
**Asst trainer:** Antonio Congiu
**Colours:** All white, with red and blue trimmings.
**Honours:** Championship — 1970 Runners-up — 1968.
**Second division — runners up** — 1964 1979.

## Club focus on

# CAGLIARI

## by Keir Radnedge

**ITALIAN football has taken the welcome habit in the past few years of throwing up a surprise team each season — a provincial outsider who manage to sneak through the ranks of the great clubs, the Milans, Inters, Torinos and Juventus.**

**Two years ago it was Vicenza, last season it was undefeated Perugia.**

**And this year, it's the team who once proved the most startling outsiders of all — Sardinia's Cagliari.**

**A squad of unknowns, coached by Mario Tiddia, the coach who led them down to the second division in 1976, they remained unbeaten until the tail end of November, when they suffered the narrowest possible defeat — 1-0 — away to Juventus.**

**Nevertheless, that still left them in third place in the table behind Inter and Milan and sent a shudder of apprehension through all the established first division clubs, remembering Cagliari's exploits of 10 years ago.**

**For though the Sardinians reached *Serie A* for the first time only in 1964 — and even then they didn't come up as champions of the second division — but as runners-up just like this past year — they turned the place upside down.**

**Relying to a major extent at first on the goals of Luigi Riva they finished sixth, 11th, sixth, ninth and then second before the crowning glory of the 1970 championship.**

**It was no sneak win either. They finished four points clear of Internazionale, one of the only two teams to beat them, along with relegated Palermo. Riva was the league's top scorer with 21 goals — the third time in four years that he had gained the accolade.**

**But Cagliari now were more than Riva. In goal was Enrico Albertosi, in the centre of defence Comunardo Niccolai and Pierluigi Cera, and vacillating between midfield and right wing the lithe ex-Inter star Angelo Domenghini. All four — plus Riva of course — went on to play for Italy in the run that summer to the World Cup Final against Brazil.**

**Coach Manlio Scopigno had worked a miracle. Most of his players were cast-offs, fine talents but men who had for one reason or another lost their confidence. Albertosi has suffered from being too long in the shadow of Giulio Sarti at Fiorentina; Domenghini had suffered various upsets off the field which made him a liability at Inter; and the black Brazilian midfielder, Nene — once the deputy of Pele at Santos — had been destroyed by the weight of that unfortunate connection on arrival in Italy at Juventus.**

**After that glorious year came the slide. Riva's injuries, the need to sell to raise the money to try to paper the cracks, and a continual changing of coaches spelled ultimate disaster of relegation in 1976.**

**Riva retired to a position on the managing board, and Cagliari had to start all over again.**

**But at least they didn't have as far to travel as the students who founded the club in 1920. For it was a long hard struggle to gain recognition. In 1922 F.C. Cagliari played in the third division of the Sardinian championship and though extremely successful on the field, weren't so careful with the finances off it.**

**The result was that although the club were allowed to jump a division to enter the major Sardinian championship, they had to merge with Union Sportiva Italia to stay solvent, as Club Sportiva Cagliari.**

# RIVA – THE MAN WHO

CAGLIARI have been in existence 60 years, but if they run another 60 then they still won't come up with a personality of the magnitude of Luigi Riva.

One of Italy's all-time greats, a prolific scorer in an era of safety-first football and the man who refused to run the risk of allowing his talents to be submerged with any of the 'greats'.

Gigi Riva remained — and has remained — faithful to Cagliari ever since signing for them in 1962 when, as an 18-year-old, he cost a ridiculous £26,000 from Legnano.

In 42 internationals he scored an Italian record 35 goals despite twice breaking a leg and he was a star of the national team who reached the 1970 World Cup Final — there to lose 4-1 to Brazil in Mexico City.

In the all-time first division scorers he rates a distant 10th in the lists, his total of 156 goals a far cry from Silvio Piola's 274. But in all classes of senior football he totalled 250 goals in 441 games, a remarkable striking rate for a man whose colossal reputation singled him out for double-and-treble marking in any match he played.

Riva was born at Varese on November 7, 1944, but he's long since become an adopted Sardinian and after repeated muscle trouble put an end to his career in the spring of 1976 he has worked behind the scenes at Cagliari.

No other club interested him. During his career Cagliari refused millions of pounds in cash every summer because Riva had insisted to the then president, Andrea Arrica, that he would fight any attempt to shift him from Sardinia!

And Arrica, all too aware of the prospective hostility from the fans if he did sell Riva, didn't dare try to persuade his star otherwise.

Now Riva has turned that loyalty into action off the field, mobilising everyone and everything in Sardinia to try to rebuild Cagliari football.

He is without any doubt the biggest man in the club. He is more in demand for interviews and guest appearances than any of the present squad — a pressure he carries as coolly as he once did the vicious attention of defenders all out to stop him by fair means and usually foul.

Were you upset that so many people were surprised by Cagliari's good start to the season?

"I was. Cagliari had been ignored for so long by the media that I was beginning to think there was only 15 teams in *Serie A*, not 16. Perhaps it was because we're not very well off, perhaps we don't make a big fuss of everything like some of the other clubs. But we intend to establish ourselves again, whatever people may think. We've kept faith in the team that brought us up from the second division because we think they can do that job — though there's also the fact that we don't have any money to throw around either!"

The transfer system has been one of the targets of the players' union, what do you think of the new rules coming on freedom of contract?

"The transfer market is basically sound because it helps provide work for the more modest players. But I think freedom of contract will create a lot of problems for them. The stars will be all right. They've had so many offers thrown at them it'll turn their heads. But the rest will have to go begging for the chance to play. I think that will discourage youngsters and without a well-organised youth sector the future for Italian football looks bleak."

Are you in favour of the reintroduction of foreigners?

"Yes, as long as the only ones allowed in are those of real achievement. It wouldn't be a bad idea if the federation set up a committee to draw up a list of 'approved' foreigners. Even so, I don't think getting them would be all that easy."

Have you ever regretted retiring when you did?

# Fairy tale of the 1970 title

From there it was a gradual step into the national league, which they entered with promotion to *Serie B* in 1931. They didn't stay long, dropping out after a series of thrashings in 1934, which virtually destroyed the club.

Some of the remaining players, fans and officials who still retained their enthusiasm formed a successor, the Unione Sportiva Cagliari, but without conspicuously more success. They swung between *Serie B* and the Sardinian championship and it wasn't until after the war that they finally established themselves in the second division.

They might have earned promotion to the top flight sooner than 1964. Exactly ten years earlier they finished level with Pro Patria for the runners-up spot, but lost the play-off to decide who went up. (Pro Patria stayed up just two years — and the first of those was thanks only to the punishing relegation of Udinese and Catania for illegal payment offences).

From the brink of glory, Cagliari hit a trough. In 1958 they only hung on in *Serie B* thanks to the increase in the number of teams but two year later relegation to the third division was for real.

And so began the miracle — from third division to the championship in eight years!

They don't expect a repeat in such dramatic form. Some £250,000 in the red they could only afford to spend £40,000 on three players to strengthen their promotion team. But the fans aren't too worried.

While Riva is around — in whatever capacity — they believe the luck of the game will go with them. After all, he's proved a remarkable talisman in the past.

# MATTERS

"I quit at what I thought was the right moment, after I had been playing well. I only wondered about coming back once. That was when Bernardini asked me to go in the national squad to the American Bicentennial Tournament against England and Brazil. I didn't take it up. And one of the big clubs offered me a huge contract to come out of retirement with them, but I wasn't interested."

What hopes do you have for Italy in the European championship?

"I'm sure we'll win. Bearzot is a top-class coach and we have a good team — we could have been runners-up at least in the World Cup. West Germany, Holland and England will be out most dangerous opponents."

A lot of clubs now are on the verge of bankruptcy. What's the answer?

"Sponsorship. It's got to come, even though the federation aren't happy. With the sort of money that can be made available clubs can start properly to promote themselves."

Why did you never become a coach yourself?

"I think it was probably because I didn't fancy the pressure. I'd had enough of that week in, week out, being expected to score goals all the time. I'd like the opportunity some time to work with the youth teams, but I also think I have something to contribute in my present role."

Do you ever help your coach, Mario Tiddia?

"I never interfere, if that's what you mean. But anyway, we've known each other a long time. Our views are similar on tactics, and on players generally. People sometimes try to fabricate stories about big rows between us, but you don't have to believe everything you read!"

If you could come back now, which team would you like to play for?

"Cagliari, of course. This is an important city for me"

# THE PLAYERS

**ENZO BRAVI.** Born Lucca, Mar. 30, 1954. Goalkeeper. Joined Cagliari as reserve from third division Massese in 1978, won afirst-team place and is now appearing in *Serie A* for the first time, though he did have a season with Napoli at 18, but without getting a game.

**ROBERTO CORTI.** Goalkeeper. Born Treviglio — home of Giancinto Facchetti — on Oct. 28, 1952. Joined Cagliari from Bay of Naples third division side Sorrento in 1976, but has had bad luck with injuries.

**MARIO BRUGNERA.** Born Venice, Feb. 26, 1946. Has played nearly 250 games in *Serie A* and scored 42 goals. Captain of Cagliari and sweeper, though his career began as a winger with Fiorentina in 1963. Won the Cup and the Mitropa Cup with Fiorentina before joining Cagliari in 1968 and playing a key role in their famous championship season. Played once for Italy B. Had one season with Bologna before returning.

**ROBERTO CANESTRARI.** Stopper. Born Pesaro, Apr. 26, 1953. Joined Cagliari 1978 from Modena. Was on Bologna's books as an 18-year-old but couldn't get a game.

**FRANCESCO CIAMPOLI.** Defender. Born Chieti, Mar. 8, 1951. Was a second division regular with Genoa then Pescara before joining Cagliari in 1976. Had never played in *Serie A*.

**ORESTE LAMAGNI.** Right back. Born Mantova, Apr. 23, 1952. Now in his seventh season with Cagliari, who have been his only 'real' club though he has played on loan in the third division with Empoli and Torres.

**SILVIO LONGOBUCCO.** Left back. Born Cosenza, June 5, 1951. Began with Ternana and joined Juventus in 1971, sharing in three championship wins though he was never a regular. Played 48 games in four seasons with Juventus and was sold to Cagliari in 1975. One cap for Italy B.

**GIUSEPPE BELLINI.** Midfield. Born Rome, June 18, 1957. Joined Cagliari from Almas-Roma in 1974 but spent two years watching the team in *Serie A* and didn't get a game until after relegation in 1976.

**FRANCESCO CASAGRANDE.** Midfield. Born Treviso July 2, 1953. Joined Cagliari from Monza in 1976 and has been a regular player in the lower divisions for six years. This is his first season in *Serie A*.

**ALBERTO MARCHETTI.** Midfield or defence. Born Arezzo, Dec. 16, 1954. Began with Juventus, coming up through their youth teams, but despite loans to Arezzo and Novara never really made the grade, playing only six games in the 1977 championship-winning team. He then left for Cagliari.

**ROBERTO QUAGLIOZZI.** Midfield. Born Frosinone, Jan. 26, 1952. Like Bellini, his career began with Almas-Roma in the fourth division, but he's now in his seventh season with Cagliari.

**VITO GRAZIANI.** Born Rome, Dec. 1, 1956. In his sixth season with Cagliari after starting with Almas-Roma. Had played briefly for Cagliari in *Serie A* before relegation.

**RENATO ROFFI.** Midfield. Born Udine, June 2, 1951. Now in his ninth season for Cagliari for whom he's played not far short of 100 games in *Serie A* alone.

**FRANCO SELVAGGI.** Midfield. Born Matera, May 15, 1953. New signing last summer from Taranto, though he has brief *Serie A* experience earlier in his career with Ternana and Roma.

**MASSIMO BRIASCHI.** Forward. Born Vicenza, May 12, 1958. Played all his career with Lanerossi Vicenza, scoring one goal in 26 games, before joining Cagliari last summer.

**EMMANUELE GATTELLI.** Forward. Born Rome, Dec. 21, 1953. Wandered between Atalanta and Pitoisse in the second and third divisions before joining Cagliari at the start of last season.

**CARLO OSELLAME.** Forward. Born Treviso. Nov. 10, 1951. The third new signing of 1979. Helped Treviso from fourth division to third with 12 goals in 1976 and was then transferred to Palermo in the second division. Now getting his first taste of *Serie A*.

**LUIGI PIRAS.** Forward. Born Selargius, Cagliari, on Oct. 22, 1954. The only Sardinian-born player in the squad. In his seventh season with Cagliari.

# DIRCEU GOES . . . AYALA COMES

by Eric Weil

**WHILE Ruben Ayala, Argentina's centre-forward in the 1974 World Cup finals, moved into Mexican soccer, Brazil's midfield star during the 1978 World Cup, Jose "Dirceu" Guimaraes, moved out to join Atletico de Madrid the club that had dropped Ayala.**

Ayala was not re-engaged by the Spanish club for the current season because of his poor performances and after negotiations with various clubs broke down, he finally signed for Mexico's Jalisco for a rumoured 350,000 dollars plus house and car for two-and-a-half years — which would make him the highest paid player in Mexican soccer.

Ayala scored both his team's goals in an excellent debut, although Jalisco were beaten 3-2 by Leon to remain bottom of group 3 with only three points from nine games.

## National coach

*(Shortly before Leon had engaged another former Argentine World Cup star (1966), Jose Albrecht – who had started the season at Puebla but was unexpectedly fired – to replace former Mexican World Cup goalkeeper Antonio Carbajal who joined the national team coaching staff as goalkeeper coach).*

Meanwhile, Dirceu, who had never quite lived up to his reputation in Mexican soccer with America, was sold to Atletico de Madrid at a price the Mexican club would not reveal but which was rumoured to be in the region of 600,000 dollars.

America had bought Dircue from Rio de Janeiro's Vasco da Gama for 400,000 dollars three months after the last World Cup in which, most experts agree, he was Brazil's outstanding player. But he had frequent tiffs with club coach Raul Cardenas and was occasionally side-lined.

But Dirceu never hit it off in Mexican soccer which he blamed on the over-all standard being low. Dirceu, 27, said: "I realise America is a big club in Mexico, but now I am going to a team considered strong in the world and there's a lot of difference." Also, America never had the speedy wingers to accompany Dirceu on his attacking forays.

With a quarter of the Mexican First Division qualifying group play over only Toluca remains unbeaten with a 5-4-0 record giving them a share of top place with America in group three. America had maintained their unbeaten record for eight games, but lost it to group one leaders Atlante by 1-0 in their classic watched by 100,000 in Mexico City.

Group leadership had remained unchanged with Atlante, Universidad Nacional Autonoma and Tampico, America and Toluca and Universidad de Nuevo Leon leading or sharing top place, while a gap has opened up between the second and third-placed teams. The top two of each group qualify for the final round after 38 games — many of which are between teams in different groups.

## Preparation

**Internationally, Mexico drew 1-1 with Finland in Mexico in the second international of their preparations for the World Cup, lining up with Reyes, Flores, Tena, Vazquez Ayala, Lopez Malo, Garcia, Diaz (Isiordia); Medina, Lopez Salgado (Rangel), Lugo (Lopez), Sanchez.**

Two weeks earlier they had beaten Peru 1-0, but both performances, against poor rivals, were not very convincing. The mediocre standard of Mexican league soccer however, confirmed by Dirceu and which has not been raised by numerous foreigners in the line-ups, could not lead one to expect anything else.

**Haiti won the Caribbean championship for the Duvalier Trophy, beating Surinam 1-0 with a late goal in a rough last match in Parmaribo where an enthusiastic crowd almost spilled over the side-lines of the small stadium.**

St. Vincent surprisingly beat Trinidad-Tobago 2-1 the day before to take second place, Surinam were third and Trinidad-Tobago fourth.


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# Moves against foreign players

**by Derrick Allsop**

**THE unpredictable Malcolm Allison, with two East Europeans on his books and following further player-hunting trips to the Continent, has announced that he's disillusioned with foreigners.**

Just when it seemed former Poland captain Kazimierz Deyna was established in the Manchester City side Allison dropped him, claiming he was lazy.

For the same match Yugoslav defender Dragoslav Stepanovic was also left out.

Allison said: "In English football you have to have the right people to battle all the time. That's why I'm upset with Deyna and Steppy. I know they can do better.

"When you go for foreign players you don't always know their background. That's important. You have to be sure they are right for our League. Look around, a lot of the foreign players are failing to do it consistently in England.

"How many Leagues are there in the world where you have to battle every game? You do here and nobody does it better than Liverpool, but how many foreigners are in their first team?

"I've looked abroad, particularly Yugoslavia, but I've had to have a rethink about it. In fact I can't see that I'll be buying foreign players again."

Across Manchester at Old Trafford, United manager Dave Sexton has also been killing the possibility of another deal in the foreign market.

Red Star Belgrade defender Nikolai Jovanovic is due at United in the New Year, but Sexton insists there will be no further additions to his League championship-chasing side.

Reports from Brazil linked Sexton with World Cup player Carlos Roberto. From Czechoslovakia came the news that the brilliant Marian Masny was his man.

Yet Sexton said: "I'm going to buy neither player. The trouble is that agents are touting players around and it suits them to mention the name of Manchester United.

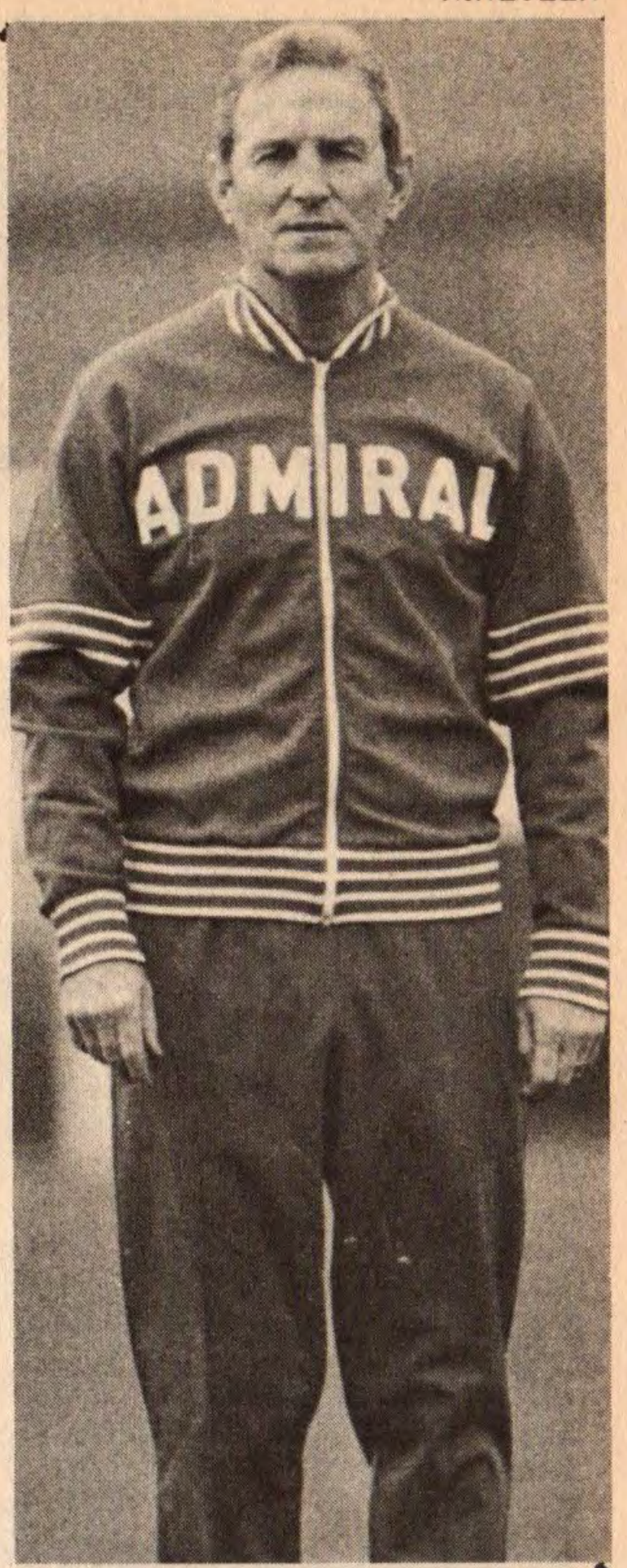
"I'm happy with the squad I've got. I think we are good enough and I have no plans to go jetting around the world looking for more players."

Sexton did, however, show a positive interest in one of West Germany's top wingers, Heinz Werner Eggeling of Bochum.

The United boss made inquiries about him in the summer, but when he was given the chance to sign him recently he turned it down. Eintracht Brunswick immediately stepped in.

Frank Worthington ended speculation about an early move to North America when he joined Birmingham from Bolton in a £150,000 deal.

Worthington spent the summer with Philadelphia Fury and intended to return to the NASL, but now he says: "I just want to concentrate on playing for Birmingham and helping them get back to the First Division."




Manchester United manager Dave Sexton.

# PRAISE FOR STEPNEY

*ENGLAND has long been a successful producer of goalkeepers – but also a little too quick to discard them.*

*Around the world goalkeepers are proving that age can give more than it takes. Nowhere in a team is experience so crucial.*

*Holland are renowned for relying on old hands. Sepp Maier gained respect and stature with the passing years. England were denied a hatful against Bulgaria by the veteran Christo Christov and Milan's Enrico Albertosi is 40.*

*Alex Stepney left Manchester United and the Football League at 36 to join Dallas Tornado. A year later there are people in the game who believe he should still be in the First Division.*

*Tony Sanders, who has signed Stepney on loan for his Alliance Premier League side Altrincham, says: "I've got a First Division keeper."*

*And Brian Kidd, Everton's former Manchester United and England striker, says: "Alex could still be in the top flight."*

*After Stepney joined Altrincham the club roared ahead of the field and nearer the possibility of election to the League.*

*Sanders says: "He is doing as much for us as he did for Manchester United. We are vastly improved because of him. He's tremendous and he's passing on so much to the team.*

*"He is so enthusiastic, a top 100 per cent pro and he's come into the set-up as one of the boys. He does what I ask him, he knows what his job is and goes out to win. Everyone is learning from him though, and that includes me.*

*"We'll miss him when he goes back to America, but I believe he's doing enough to leave the side confident to go on without him. His influence and attitude will still be there."*

*Kidd was a youngster at Old Trafford when Stepney joined United. At the end of his first season, 1966-67, they were League champions.*

*"I have always felt that Alex and Denis Law were the key figures for United that season," says Kidd.*

*A year later Stepney – and Kidd – helped United to their European Cup triumph. The keeper also played for England and, late in his 12-year association with United, earned an FA Cup-winners medal.*

*Kidd adds: "Alex was a great influence when I started and I'm sure he still is. With what he's done he's got to be good for the game wherever he goes."*

*Stepney, who has eyes on management, is content to lend a hand to the club on his English doorstep. "I came because I was happy to help out, play for the fun of it and keep myself fit," he says.*

*"I saw a few things I thought could be worked on and the defenders did what I suggested. The point is there are some good players and they are willing to learn.*

*"A First Division team who had injury problems asked me to join them on loan but I decided to stay here until I go back to Dallas.*

*"Long term I would like to think I could help Altrincham get into the League. I certainly think they are good enough."*

## ITALY
## by Keir Radnedge

# The Rivera touch is missing

**GIANNI RIVERA isn't admitting it in public, but there can't be many people in Calcio unaware that he is wondering whether his golden touch deserted him when he decided to retire last summer.**

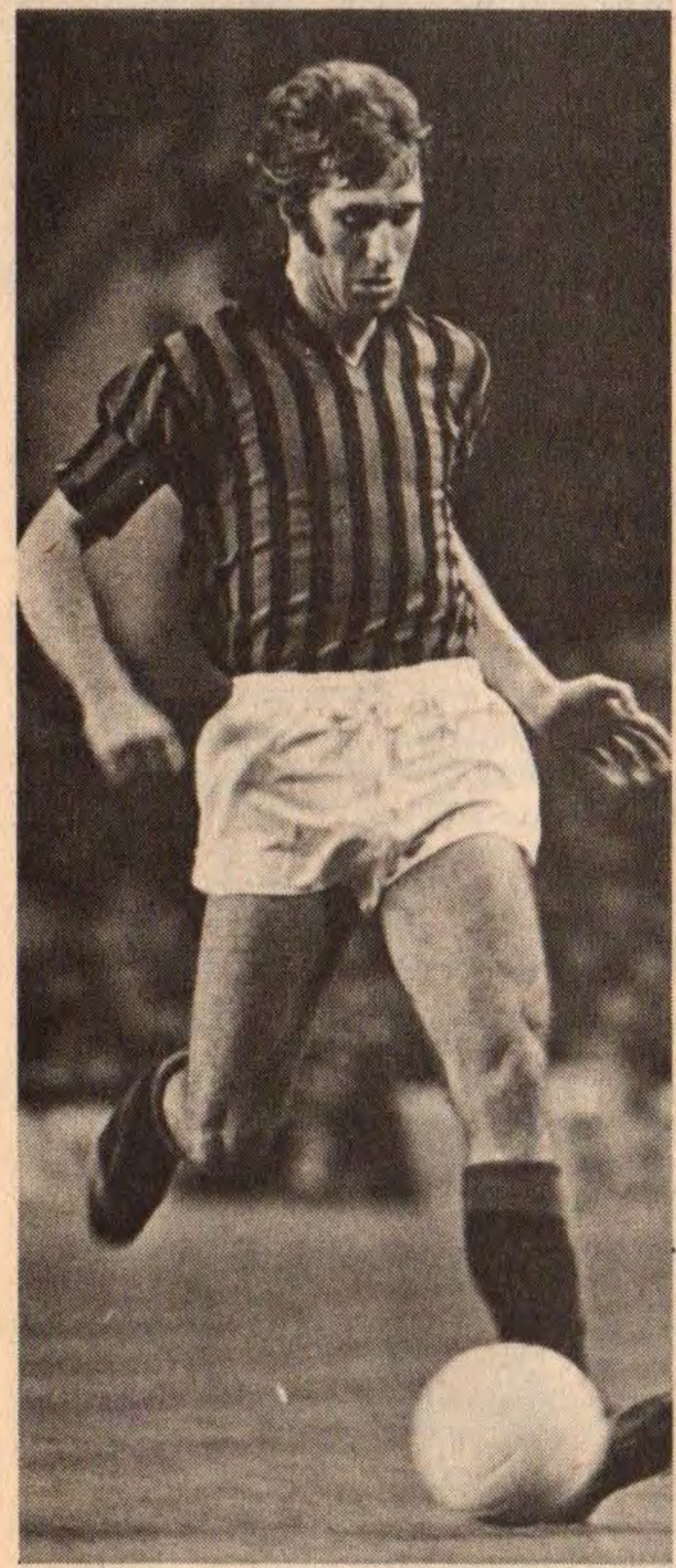
In his absence Milan, although still in second place in the championship, have suffered a series of reversals which have the *tifosi* worried.

First came elimination in the first round of the Champions' Cup by Porto, and now they're out of the Italian Cup after a 4-0 hammering at home in the first leg of the quarter-final against Roma.

What made defeat the more bitter is that Roma are now guided by Nils Liedholm, who coached Milan to the league last season.

Aldo Maldera, the goal-scoring full-back, is surprising opposing defences no longer, skipper Albertino Bigon has been hit by injuries and all hell broke loose after the 2-0 defeat by neighbours and leaders Internazionale in the San Siro derby.

Milan's central defenders, Franco Baresi and Aldo Bet should have had plenty to celebrate — the one was newly-acclaimed Young Player of the Year, the other had reached 300 games in *Serie A*. But in fact the happiest man around was Inter's rapidly-maturing midfielder Evaristo Beccalossi, who grabbed both goals despite a persistent thigh strain for which he's even tried acupuncture.



Aldo Maldera.

The game drew record Italian receipts of £400,000, but that was little consolation to Milan's fans who were further disgruntled a couple of weeks later when the game against Napoli was fogged off just after half-time . . . too late for them to reclaim their money.

Inter, meanwhile, continue happily at the front for the first time in eight years. Sandro Altobelli at centre-forward has been another of their revelations this season, scoring with two magnificent headers in the unfortunate home UEFA Cup defeat by Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Altobelli did the trick again with the late equaliser for an important point away to surprise newcomers Cagliari and with six goals — the same as last season's top scorer, Bruno Giordano of Lazio — he is pushing the overall leader, Paolo Rossi, hard indeed.

Rossi has hit seven so far, it could have been eight but, having scored twice in the 3-1 win over Roma, he missed the penalty which would have brought his hat-trick.

Nevertheless, the two goals were welcome, for Rossi has found it tough at Perugia. First he couldn't adapt to playing alongside ex-Milan striker Egidio Calloni, then he came in for much of the blame when their long unbeaten run came to an end.

### First round

Perugia had already been put out of the Cup in the first round by second division Ternana, but the fans weren't at all happy when a 2-0 home defeat by Torino put an end to their 37-game league run, just three matches short of the record set by Fiorentina in the mid-1950s.

At least coach Ilario Castagner — the youngest in *Serie A* — didn't come away empty-handed. He picked up the annual Seminatore d'Oro award for the outstanding trainer.

Fiorentina themselves show few signs of escaping their rough patch. They have the youngest squad in the league — average age 24 — but the death of president Melloni and the consequent in-fighting did little for the atmosphere surrounding the team.

Their state of mind was exemplified by the £60 fine levied on stopper Sandro Zagano after a 3-0 win over Catanzaro. His crime? He spent too much time attacking!

### Welcome

Fiorentina old boy Luciano Chiarugi is back in *Serie A* with Bologna, who are just below midtable, a welcome relief after their relegation struggles of the last couple of years.

Coach Marino Perani lives in constant fear of the sack, while the fans are none too happy either with the team on the pitch or in the boardroom. The fans threw a lively picket around the ground after the announcement that season ticket prices were to go rocketing up.

Elsewhere in the league Juventus flatter to deceive — while Dino Zoff is rapidly approaching Alfredo Foni's all-time record of 229 consecutive league games — and neighbours Torino have again been plagued by injuries.

But overriding all the partisan considerations are increasing worries about the European Championship.

It's not the national team — though the narrow wins over Sweden and Switzerland left many dissatisfied. Rather, concern centres on Italy's fans after the death of one, killed by a flare rocket, before the Lazio-Roma derby, and another who fell from the top of San Siro (or was he pushed?) during a 0-0 draw between Milan and Udinese.

The law is clamping down. One rocket-firer was jailed for a year in Milan. But after the police had to bring in the tear gas force again at Napoli during the game against Perugia, it's no wonder UEFA president, Artemio Franchi, is becoming more nervous about what the month of June has in store.

## SPAIN

# THE CHALLENGE FROM TOP CLUBS

IT'S ALL mud and bullets in Spain at the moment — with Barcelona, Valencia and Atletico Madrid sharing internal problems, and the provincial outsiders taking the opportunity to launch a major challenge for the title.

The situation at Barcelona changes from day to day.

The row between Hans Krankl and coach Joaquin Rife has been simmering for some time. First signs of a rift arose when Rife dropped the Austrian World Cup star, saying he was more concerned about getting his name on the scoresheet than playing his part with the team.

Krankl's late arrival back after the European championship tie in Scotland exacerbated the situation and Rife blew his top again after the Austrian returned from the tie in Portugal with a leg injury suffered in training!

It's unlikely Krankl will stay beyond the end of the season, another blow to a club who have now sacked Argentine-born Spanish international Juan Carlos Heredia.

Heredia, the club's *enfant terrible*, practised one escapade too many and missed training once too often, and Rife's recommendation that he be kicked out forthwith was approved by the board, though not without some doubts, which later prompted the resignation of a senior director.

Heredia, meanwhile, hit back by speaking his mind to the media. The biggest mistake, he said, was selling Neeskens — a direct attack on president Jose Luis Nunez. But Heredia, for good measure, also threw in the afterthought that the huge investment in Johan Cruyff over five years had been "a waste of money."

Controversy over foreigners was spreading. Valencia too had their difficulties with West German star Rainer Bonhof. He hasn't been happy in Spain and when the club proved tardy in paying long overdue bonuses he borrowed and impounded a Mercedes car which the president, Jose Ramos Costa, had some time ago asked Bonhof to bring into the country to escape taxes.

English first division strugglers Brighton approached Bonhof, but were soon scared off on learning he wanted around £2,000 a game. Spain obviously spoils its footballers for elsewhere!

Rainer Bonhof of Valencia and West Germany.

That's why they even bend the truth and the rules to get into the country — as did Dario Felman, Valencia's other problem boy. Some 18 months ago Valencia, on signing Felman permanently from Boca Juniors, demanded assurances that he had never played for Argentina.

This was a necessary step towards getting round the two-foreigners rule, by claiming him as a Spaniard through his parents. Boca and the Argentine FA provided the written guarantees that Felman had never represented the national team.

However when Boca refused to pay the South American agent his full commission on the deal, he broke the awful truth . . . that Felman had played nine minutes for Argentina as a substitute against Hungary three years ago.

Felman clearly played all last season knowing he was ineligible. And though Valencia won't get into much trouble because they did all they could, they nevertheless sacked the player on the spot and demanded that the FEF declare him persona non grata in Spanish football.

Felman isn't the only Argentinian sacked this season, for Atletico Madrid have kicked out 1974 World Cup star Ruben Ayala, replacing him among their foreigners by 1978 Brazil midfielder, Dirceu.

He made a poor debut in the 2-1 away defeat by neighbours Rayo, but was outstanding a week later as Atletico claimed their first home win of the season — in late November! — defeating Barcelona 2-1.

Real Madrid have had their own troubles. They let Real Sociedad established a surprise claim to top spot when they lost 4-0 in San Sebastian — their first defeat there for 22 years. But Madrid did fight back (unfortunate but illustrative word) away to Gijon, their closest pursuers last year. Gijon had Enzo Ferrero sent off after only seven minutes for attacking San Jose, but nevertheless earned a 1-1 draw with a goal by Joaquin in the 50th minute of the first half!

Gijon's rapid rush out in front has hit a few setbacks. A surprise 4-1 home defeat by Zaragoza — Quini missed a penalty — was soon followed by a 1-0 away defeat by Betis, the Seville club's first win of the season.

Athletico Bilbao also had to wait rather too long for comfort for that milestone, but then celebrated in style by beating Malaga 3-1 thanks to two goals from Carlos, the lithe centre forward whose past two seasons have been spent mostly in the treatment room.

Finally, to note more coaching dismissals. After Betis sacked Leon Lasa, Hercules dismissed Benito Joanet following a 5-0 defeat by Madrid, and Burgos kicked out Jose Luis Garcia Traid *before* facing Madrid, after a 5-0 thrashing by Zaragoza, for whom Pichi Alonson hit four.

In Chamartin then, Burgos didn't do too badly, losing only 2-1. It could have been three to Madrid, but Laurie Cunningham missed a penalty . . . and was booed from the field.

**KEIR RADNEDGE**

# NEWCOMERS FIT INTO DERWALL'S NATIONAL PLANS

**THE WEST GERMAN national side continues to impress. A month after the marvellous 5-1 victory over Wales the team had to be reshuffled because several players were not available. Yet, the Germans carried on where they left off by beating Russia 3-1 away in Tbilisi.**

Manager Jupp Derwall can now relax in the knowledge that he has a large squad full of excellent players who will be worthy representatives of their country in the European Championship finals in Italy next June. What pleased Derwall most was the way some other players and indeed international novices, fitted into the side without upsetting the rhythm. The two Spanish "mercenaries", Bonhof and Stielike were not released by their clubs, while Klaus Allofs was injured.

In the event two men received their first call up: Harald Nickel (26, Borussia Mönchengladbach) a striker and Mirko Votava (23, Borussia Dortmund) a midfielder, who came on as substitute for full back Bernard Dietz ... Midfielder Hans-Peter Briegel (24, Kaiserslautern) who got his first taste of international football as a sub against Wales, now played his first full 90 minutes. And in goal Norbert Nigbur (31) from Schalke, who was promised this chance, returned to national colours after an absence of five years. Two others who were used as subs, performed well, Bernd Förster (brother of stopper Karl-Heinz) and Herbert Zimmermann.

**Klaus Fischer (left) in Schalke 04 colours.**

The most interesting newcomer is Mirko Votava, a Czech refugee who came to West Germany via Australia with his parents and is now starring for Dortmund.

This was Derwall's 11th international in charge and he is still unbeaten. 35,000 spectators in Tbilisi, who had already seen West German champions Hamburger SV beat their local Dynamo in the European Cup tie on this ground by 3-2 recently, witnessed another demonstration of the current power of German football. They booed and whistled their own team, but had to admit that against this class of opposition there was little they could do.

Two splendid goals from Karl-Heinz Rummenigge — the best man on the field — and one from Klaus Fischer, after a copy book move, sealed this victory which could have been higher, if other chances had been taken. Nickel on his debut missed four good opportunities, but this should not detract from an overall fine display.

## Teamwork

The Soviet Press acknowledged the superiority of the Germans and named Rummenigge, Kaltz and Nickel as their best players. Derwall was delighted: "A marvellous match in both halves and our teamwork, considering the enforced changes was exemplary. The self-confidence of our players was a decisive factor in this fine win".

The West Germans will play just three more internationals before the European Championship series: v. Turkey on December 22, at Gelsenkirchen (EC); v. Malta on February 27 at Bremen (EC) and v. Austria a friendly on April 2, in Munich.

On the domestic front the big talking was

# WEST GERMANY by Arthur Rotmil

the engagement of the England international Tony Woodcock by the 1.FC Köln (Cologne). The club made a profit of 140,000 D-marks (£35,000) last season, although the team did not fulfil expectations and in fact failed to qualify for a European competition for the first time in ten years. But this figure does not include income from the transfers of Jürgen Glowacz and Heinz Flohe, who together fetched £300,000. Thus Cologne were able to raise £650,000 for the talented Nottingham Forest striker. This is incidentally by far the record fee for German football.

Cologne will pay Woodcock slightly over the £75,000 a year, which is their norm, but of course there will be handsome bonuses on top of the basic salary. The club hope to recoup the money through the gates with a challenge for the championship and a place in European tournaments. It is hoped that Woodcock will make the same impact on the Bundesliga as Kevin Keegan made, after he overcame his problems.

**West Germany's highly rated defender Manny Kaltz takes on Welshmen Robbie James and Phil Dwyer.**

## Budget

Keegan's club, Hamburger SV, report a deficit for last season. The champions lost £150,000 mainly because their budget on players' salaries is reputedly the highest in the Bundesliga. Under the controversial former president Dr. Peter Krohn, Hamburg showed a profit for four years running. But already last season the club was £170,000 in the red. Surprisingly, in view of their current financial state, there are persistent rumours that Hamburg will make a bid for one, or both the internationals Bonhof and Stielike, at present with Valencia and Real Madrid, respectively.

Hamburg's general manager Günter Netzer has been apparently negotiating in secret with these players with whom he was once active at Borrussia Mönchengladbach. But there could be trouble within the club. At a general meeting of the club members, Dr. Krohn managed to obtain enough support to defeat an important motion put forward by the current president Paul Benthien.

If Dr. Krohn wins the decisive vote on December 18 and were to become again the club's chairman, then the days of Netzer and indeed of Keegan at Hamburg may well be numbered. Netzer is Keegan's friend and he has already stated that he would not work under Dr. Krohn "under any circumstances".

Bayern Munich's record-capped goalkeeper Sepp Maier, has recovered from his dreadful car accident on July 14 and has resumed full training. The popular 'keeper is determined to make a successful comeback and hopes to be the number one again.

But Bayern's former international centre back, Hans-Georg Schwarzenbeck, who has been unfit for three months, will not play for another three months. He was operated on his achilles tendon and thus rumours were rife that the club was seeking a replacement. Their interest centred apparently on the brilliant French 'libero' Marius Tresor from Olympique Marseille. Tresor, born in Guadeloupe, was voted the outstanding sweeper in the World Cup — after the Argentinian Passarella. His transfer fee was reckoned a modest £125,000.

One of Germany's most famous footballers, Horst-Dieter Höttges (66 caps) veteran of the World Cup final in 1966 and member of the European Championship winning team in 1972, was granted a testimonial on December 4. Höttges, formerly with Werder Bremen, had retired from active football but was honoured on account of his excellent service for club and country.

Another famous old timer, Sigi Held, has joined promoted Bayer Uerdingen and at 37 is the oldest player in the Bundesliga. He gained 41 caps while with Borussia Dortmund and also played in the World Cup final and helped his country to reach the European final, which he missed.

The fourth manager fired in the Bundesliga this season was Kuno Klötzer of Hertha Berlin. Yet, the playing crisis was precipitated by the sale of top players like Nigbur, Weiner and Beer deemed necessary to balance the books The club's president Ottomar Domrich (42) also resigned in protest leaving the club, now £600,000 in debt, in a turmoil. Hertha's new team chief is Hans Eder, the former assistant of Klötzer. He is to remain in charge at least until the half way stage of the season.

## Salary

1860 Munich have also appointed a new team manager. He is Carl-Heinz Rühl (39), who formerly played for Hertha, MSV Duisburg and Cologne. His salary is estimated at £36,000 a year, which is much lower than the top coaches earn in the First Bundesliga.

1860 were hoping to sign the great Gerd Müller, now 34, Germany's most prolific goal scorer of all time, but the deal fell through. Müller scored 68 goals in 62 internationals and 365 goals in 427 Bundesliga games. He left Bayern Munich and spent last summer playing in America for the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, but was hoping to bridge the long pause in US football by rejoining a German club, as he is at present back in his home in Munich. The financial demands of his American employers were so excessive that 1860 finally gave up the ghost.

Eintracht Brunswick, Atletico Madrid and the Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax were also said to be interested in Müller, but he wanted a high salary, while his club insisted on a high insurance cover in addition to a sizeable loan transfer fee. 1860 Munich said to be £750,000 in debt could not meet the demanded payments and at the moment Müller's immediate future has not been resolved.

## Favourites

In the championship the title holders Hamburger SV were topping the table at the end of November, pursued by Bayern Munich, Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Dortmund. Hamburg are most experts favourites to retain the trophy, but they could be involved in the closing stages of the European Cup and the extra burden may prove too much, moreover as two stars Memering and Buljan are currently on the sick list. Bayern appear to have better reserve players at their disposal and this strength-in-depth of the respective squads may tilt the balance.

Keegan has been playing much better lately, scoring vital goals, but the talk in Germany at the start of December was of Woodcock. Four thousand fans turned up just to see him in his first training session and a Woodcock fan-club was instantly launched. The only discrepancy concerned his age — on the DFB transfer list he appears as being born in 1957, but according to English records he saw the light of day in 1955. All professional footballers want to be registered as younger, as it must increase their transfer value, and I wonder if that is the explanation . . .

# FRANCE

# Clubs keep flag flying

## by Andre Duclos

**THIS has been a surprisingly good European season for French clubs. The national side may have slid out of the Nations Cup — though that 2-1 win against the Czechs by a French team full of reserves was rich consolation — but the club sides have been acquitting themselves marvellously well.**

That six-goal volley by Saint Etienne against PSV in the UEFA Cup was all the more satisfying when one recalls the close battles these two had in the European Cup; and Robert Herbin's men followed that up with another four goals in the Third Round at home to Aris of Salonica; 3-0 winners against Perugia in Italy in their last UEFA Cup game.

Nantes, winners over Steaua of Bucharest by only a goal in their first leg Cupwinners' Cup game then crowded on sail to win the return match in Rumania as well; which much put out and astonished the Rumanians.

But perhaps the best, most satisfying, victory of all was the hard-fought 2-0 win in extra time of Strasbourg, Gilbert Gress' men, so little experienced in Europe, against the deeply experienced and very talented Dukla Prague. This was a match which could very well have gone either way over its long duration, and even French critics admitted that had it been played again, the result might have been quite different. As it was, Gress' tactics, his fierce commitment, his intensity, communicated itself to his team; which won through.

### Optimistic

It might not have done so had he not kept the veteran international centre-back, Jacky Novi, on the field for all 120 minutes, despite a pulled muscle which got worse and worse as the game went on. Gress afterwards explained his action by the fact that he could see that Tanter, his striker, was in pain, and assumed he would bring on his Argentine trump card, the veteran Carlos Bianchi, to take his place. He felt optimistic that Novi would be able to finish the game, and did not want to commit any of his substitutes for tactical rather than "injury" reasons, in a game so very likely to go into extra time.

In the event his policy turned out to be fortunate, or well judged if you prefer it, since a Dukla knee crashed into the midfielder Deutschmann's face after he went in for a tackle in the 78th minute. So the international Bracci had to come on for him — an operation was subsequently needed — and when Bianchi came on 14 minutes earlier, it was for Tanter.

Strasbourg may not be a Liverpool or a Hamburg or a Forest but they won't be easy to beat in the quarter-finals, whomever they draw, not least because Gress is so clever about his tactics. He makes the shrewd point that the same thing has a different effect on different players; i.e. that if you tell the Polish midfielder Marx and Deutschmann to place an emphasis on attack, they will still keep a weather eye on the man they're supposed to be marking, because that is the way they play.

Note that Saint Etienne got all their six goals against PSV without their dazzling right winger, Dominique Rochetau. Platini, recovered thank goodness from the fearful bang he got from the Yugoslav-American Bandov in Paris, scored two of the goals, though he was on the field for only 74 minutes, when L. Roussey took his place.

### Tension

Nantes were very pleased with the European debut in Bucharest of the fast, powerful William Ayache, who had to mark the most dangerous Rumanian forward, in Raducanu. His manager Jean Vincent, old French international outside-left, explained the nervous tension of Ayache by the fact that he was able to tell him a week before that he would be playing instead of the injured Trossero; he's a nervous boy, said Vincent, and in the past he had been thrown in at the deep end, picked at the last minute.

Ayache admits that he felt uneasy in the first half, not least because the conditions on that side of the field were like a swimming bath. In the second half, on drier ground, he found confidence and form. Raducanu, who had tormented the Nantes defence in the first leg, accomplished very little.

That was a baptism of fire rather than water, however. The game was so violent in the first half that the Swiss referee, M. Dorflinger, went into both teams' dressing rooms at half time to threaten to abandon the game if manners did not improve.

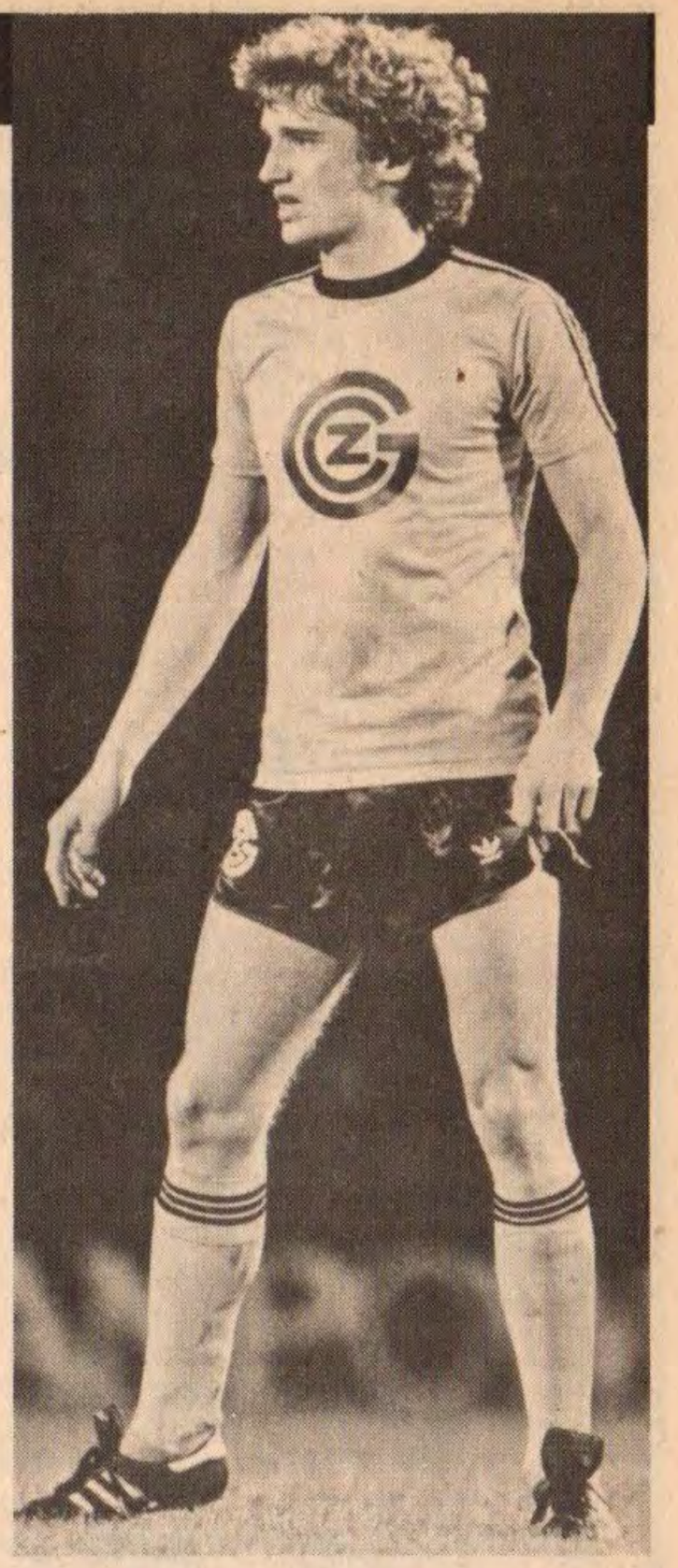
### Claim

Eric Pécout, the well built centre-forward who did well against the Czechs in Paris, andd has now staked a strong claim to a regular international place, nearly caused Nantes to be fined in Bucharest. Every member of the Nantes team was told to take his own shirt to Rumania; no doubt Nantes wanted to avoid the kind of fiasco which took place in Argentina in the 1978 World Cup, when a lack of suitable colours held up interminably the game between France and Hungary. Alas, Pécout forgot his number nine shirt and was going to play in a number 15; which under UEFA rules would have meant a fine for Nantes. The mayor of Nantes promised to bring the nine shirt with him, then didn't make the journey. In the event, a friendly radio man came to the rescue.

Leonard Specht, the Strasbourg stopper, who has settled down nicely in the French national team, has also been used this season as a defensive midfielder by his club. He prefers to play centre-back, he says; that's where he made his name with Strasbourg, that's where he won his place in the French national eleven, that he says is where he would like to stay. To those who ask a more adventurous approach from him in games where goals are needed, he replies that he often moves up when he plays as a stopper. If he ever does a switch from there he would like to be a libero.

**Larios scores the first St. Etienne goal against PSV Eindhoven in their sensational 6-0 UEFA Cup win.**

## Switzerland by Arthur Rotmil



Herbert Hermann of Grasshoppers.

# SWISS DEFEAT WAS EXPECTED

**SWITZERLAND'S national team closed the year 1979 with another defeat, albeit not unexpected. Against their "arch rivals" Italy the 0-2 score line was not taken too tragically, although the performance of the recently praised side left much to be desired.**

But some of the Swiss players took the field in provincial Udine with far too much respect before the opposition. The match was staged in this small north eastern town because the Italian Football Federation wanted to reward the local club Udinese, who achieved promotion to the Serie A (First Division). A crowd of 33,000 packed the stadium but they could not have been happy with their own team despite the victory.

Only in the first half did the much vaunted Italian stars show their class and scored through Graziani and Tardelli. Afterwards the game deteriorated as a spectacle and the Italian Press complained that their team "went to sleep", after the break.

The Swiss disappointed in every department. Gone was the aggression, fighting spirit and concentration which coach Leon Walker managed to instil into the side in previous matches. The forwards appeared paralysed by the big names on the opposing side, the midfield couldn't win the important balls in the tackle, while the defence, though brave, failed to cope with the technically superior, faster and cleverer Italian forwards.

### Recalled

If the hosts had not let up after half-time, then the score line would have been much heavier. Before the match Swiss sports papers recalled that in 18 matches their team has never won on Italian soil, the last draw was during the war in 1940 (1-1) and in over 32 years they had not scored in Italy! In the match in Udine it rarely looked as if this negative sequence would be broken.

Unhappily there is not much coming through from the 'Under-21' team, which was also beaten by Italy and eliminated from the UEFA championship. There are several younger players who look good at club level, but "freeze" in international encounters. Against the professional young Italians the Swiss showed up well, but as with their seniors the lack of striking power led to their downfall. "We have never had such a strong 'Under-21' side", claimed the sports press — but of course, without goals they too, cannot win matches.

The national team manager Walker had an interesting "confrontation" with the talented forward René Botteron, who after being dropped vowed he "will never play for the national team again". Following some exchanges, mainly on the sports pages of the local newspapers, Botteron met Walker and discussed his problems with him frankly. Nonetheless, the FC Zurich star player is still not being considered for any representative matches.

In the World Cup Switzerland will play England away first, probably next autumn at Wembley. The dates of all other ties in this group, which also includes Hungary, Rumania and Norway, will have been fixed by the time these lines appear in print.

### Triumph

On the local scene the triumph of Grasshoppers over Ipswich Town in the UEFA-Cup produced the biggest headlines. Swiss clubs generally have a wretched record against English sides. In 12 meetings only one Swiss club, FC Zurich eliminated English opponents previously (Nottingham Forest), in a European tournament. But never before have the Swiss avoided defeat, or actually won through on an English ground.

After the 0-0 at home, the Grasshoppers were a goal down (a dreadful error by Wehrli letting Beattie through), but Sulser equalised with a marvellous goal to make it 1-1 and thus the Swiss won on the away goal rule. This was truly a golden goal, for in the next round the Grasshoppers met the West German cracks VfB Stuttgart. Both clubs wanted to meet each other, partly because of the proximity for travelling supporters, because German football is held in high esteem in Switzerland and not least because the Grasshoppers manager Jürgen Sundermann was until last season team chief in Stuttgart.

Two full houses were in prospect — 30,000 in Zurich and 72,000 in Stuttgart! Grasshoppers' success over Ipswich was all the more remarkable, for only three days earlier the Zurich club was k.o.'d in the Cup, on their own ground, by modest FC Sion. After a 3-3 draw a.e.t. the visitors won on penalties. Apart from the 'Hoppers' two other famous clubs Zurich and Basel also took a dive in the same round.

A not unexpected managerial casualty was Timo Konietzka, who resigned at Young Boys. The Bern club was doing badly and the team had lost confidence after the shattering 6-0 defeat by Steaua Bucarest in the Cup Winners Cup.

In the championship Grasshoppers and local rivals FC Zurich continued to set the pace. Their clash at the Hardturm stadium (GC home), drew a crowd of 21,500 and this three days before the bonanza for the visit of Stuttgart in the UEFA Cup. Grasshoppers estimate that they took a cool £250,000 gross from these two games alone! It seems that the Swiss fans, spoiled by televised football from neighbouring countries (Italy, France, West Germany and Austria), are still willing to turn out in force, provided a first-class spectacle is provided, or at least expected.

Servette, the champions, have not, as yet, got over their disappointment at being put out of the European Cup by East Germans Dynamo Berlin. The loss of form of several key men, notably in midfield, has contributed to their erratic performances.

At the bottom Lugano appeared doomed already, while once famous Lausanne and Chenois will also struggle to stay in the upper sphere. St. Gallen and Young Boys will almost certainly just remain among the also-rans.

# Dope-test to mainto

**Glenn Hoddle, the young Tottenham midfield player, who had a "dream" debut for England against Bulgaria.**

**AT LAST dope-testing has begun in English football.**

It's a cause for celebration, not because of any huge undercurrent of drugs use in the Football League, but because in an era when the once-idealistic Olympics have been tainted and stained beyond repair by doping and shamateurism, a sport can maintain credibility only if it can publicly prove it has its own house in order.

Italy has had random dope-testing for several years. Spain, West Germany and France are following suit at various paces.

UEFA saw the light after the Willie Johnston affair at the last World Cup Finals.

Now England has joined in, starting with eight players from the West Ham v. Cardiff and Swindon v. Brentford matches. The players, who included England international goalkeeper Phil Parkes, were intercepted as they left the pitch, escorted to the medical room by two FA officials and asked to produce urine samples — though Parkes was one player unable to do so!

"We are pretty sure there is no drugs problem in English football, but we want to back that up with factual evidence," said an FA spokesman.

★ ★ ★

**WHATEVER awful tales Tony Woodcock had been told about the cold and unfriendly Germans were soon dismissed after his £650,000 move to Köln.**

Skipper Bernd Cullmann had promised beforehand: "We'll go out of our way to make Tony feel happy here and a part of the team."

A dinner party invite with Cullmann and goalkeeper Harald "Toni" Schumacher followed for Woodcock and wife Carole — and that was before he'd even played a game.

So far so good, then, for Woodcock. But, just to play the devil's advocate, would Kevin Keegan have forced himself to his present dizzy heights if he hadn't had so much unfriendly provocation in his first six months at Hamburg?

★ ★ ★

**INTERESTING to speculate on what a Kerry Packer-type character might do with this year's centenary celebrations of the Australian Football Association.**

They've invited the four home countries, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to send representative teams out on tour. Wales and Northern Ireland are apparently in favour in principle, Scotland haven't decided and England are likely to send a B team — or hardly even that — since the June dates suggested by the Aussies clash with the European Championship Finals.

But with Packer, the TV magnate, bending the venerable traditions of cricket to suit his programme promotion show, I wonder what he could do with football.

Not much perhaps. After all, striped shirts are commonplace and have been for more than a hundred years. And as for changing the colour of the ball, well . . . we've had black and yellow, black and white, even red white and blue.

Come to think of it, perhaps Packer got all his ideas from football in the first place.

★ ★ ★

**NOTHING much has gone right for Swarowski Wacker Innsbruck and goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia since the parting of the ways less than a year ago.**

Both, in fact, flattered only to deceive . . . badly.

While Innsbrück won the Austrian Cup but suffered the painful and costly indignity of relegation, Koncilia took up an offer from Anderlecht which promised to bring him, at last, into Europe's top echelon of club football.

Instead what do we find? After only a couple of league matches, which included a 2-1 home defeat by current leaders Lokeren, coach Urbain Braems was starting to criticise, and a few more matches, a few more blunders and a few more defeats and Koncilia was out, replaced in goal by the semi-retired Nico De Bree.

Brought back again for the important visit to title-chasing Brugge, Koncilia slipped up again, giving away the first goal to the lively young Jan Ceulemans.

Now he's bursting to get away. FK Austria, New York Cosmos or Linz ASK are all running for the man who not so long ago was talking in terms of a career with Manchester United.

★ ★ ★

**HOW words become twisted!**

**Glenn Hoddle made a fine debut for England against Bulgaria, contributing his undoubted skill and new-found stamina in midfield, and crowning it all with a glorious goal from just outside the penalty box.**

But there was a suspicion the next day that some newspapers went a little too far overboard, because the rest of the match provided little cause for comment.

Be that as it may, the commentators who got into most trouble were those who compared Hoddle's debut with that of Bobby Charlton 20 years ago.

Liverpool manager Bob Paisley complained that there was no way anyone could compare the players — Hoddle was only a beginner. But then, what really was being compared? A performance on a debut, and that alone.

The last time the media went overboard in similar circumstances was four years ago, on behalf of a midfield player you may just remember named Alan Hudson.

He put on a glorious show against West Germany at Wembley. Yet he played only one more game for England before fading controversially from the international scene.

For England's sake, one hopes Hoddle doesn't go the same way.

# ing in England in credibility

## World Soccer Diary compiled by Keir Radnedge

EUROPE'S TOP SCORERS (towards the Golden Boot award): Staroukhin (Shacktor Donetsk) 26 goals (34 games) — Nielsen (Esbjerg) 20 (30) — Eriksen (Odense) 20 (30) — Skovboe (Naestved) 19 (30) — Schachner (FK Austria) 19 (15) — Thygesen (BK 1903) 18 (30) — Blokhon (Kiev) 17 (34) — Petrakov (Lok. Moscow) 17 (34) — Andreyev (Rostov) 17 (34) — Trigger (Aalborg) 16 (30) — Kazachenok (Zenit) 16 (34) — Oganesian (Ararat) 16 (34) — Chesnokov (TSKA) 16 (34) — Ismail Atik (HJK) 15 (29) — Suhonen (TPs) 15 (29) — Bjerregard (Ikast) 15 (30) — Yartsev (Spartak Moscow) 15 (34) — Onnis (Monaco) 15 (18) — Boyer (Southampton) 15 (17) — Petursson (Feyenoord) 15 (14).

★ ★ ★

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR . . . Jan 2: Tunisia v. East Germany . . . Jan 16: the Rome draw for the European club quarter-finals as well as the European Championship Finals . . . Jan 23: Spain v. Holland (Vigo) and European Under-21, Italy v. Luxembourg.

★ ★ ★

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? . . . *Raymond Kopa*. Born in 1931 at Noeux-les-Mines in the French coalfields, the son of a Polish miner. Lost the top of a finger in a mining accident when a teenager but didn't have to stay long because of his football ability. Played first for Angers and was then taken to Reims in 1952 by Albert Batteux. Played as scheming centre-forward and led Reims to the first Champions' Cup Final, where they lost 4-3 to Real Madrid — whom he had already agreed to join when the season had ended. Won three European medals with Madrid before returning to Reims after starring in the 1958 World Cup. Troubled more and more by injury he saw Reims relegated in 1964 and retired. Much in demand for his views of football, he has refused offers to enter the rat-race of management, working instead for the sportswear firm who trade under his name.

★ ★ ★

WE TOLD YOU . . .

*Five years ago, that* . . . Bayern Munich had sacked Udo Lattek as coach . . . Willy Van der Kuylen had topped 200 goals for PSV Eindhoven . . . Bulgarian centre-forward Petar Jekov had retired at 30 after a 300-goal career with Beroe and CSKA.

*Ten years ago, that* . . . Nestor Combin was nearly nabbed for Argentine military service after Milan played a world club cup-tie in Buenos Aires . . . Pele scored his 999th career goal, and then to the crowd's annoyance, spent the rest of the game as substitute goalkeeper . . . Karoly Lakat quit as Ferencvaros coach on the eve of a Champions' Cup-tie with Leeds.

*Fifteen years ago, that* . . . Vic Mobley, named for England against Holland, had to drop out five hours later because of injury . . . Malmö, half-way leaders, lost the Swedish title on goal difference . . . Willy Van der Kuylen scored 11 goals in his first 13 games for PSV Eindhoven . . . Ljubomir Lovric quit as Yugoslav manager . . . Benfica's new boss, Elek Schwarz, saw them back to their old position — top of the table.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

GEORG ERICSSON handed over to LARS ARNESSON as Sweden's boss after the Far East tour ended in Singapore . . . PATRICE GARONDE, goal-scoring star of Swiss club Chenois, admitted to having been born in Saint-Etienne . . . GERD MÜLLER kept in trim, playing for Xamax-Neuchatel in a friendly against the Czech national team . . . MARIUS TRESOR, the Marseille sweeper, becomes the target for Bayern Munich after Georg Schwarzenbeck is diagnosed to have serious Achilles trouble . . . KARL-HEINZ FELDKAMP'S contract as Kaiserslautern coach is extended to 1981 . . . MANNI KALTZ is named Player of the Year by his fellow West German footballers . . . Stuttgart star KARL-HEINZ FÖRSTER, takes time off from football to get married . . . Red Star Belgrade right-back NIKI JOVANOVIC agreed to join Manchester United early in the New Year . . . MILJAN MILJANIC was offered a job by Spain's struggling Hercules of Alicante, but the Yugoslav federation said No for him . . . OMAR SIVORI was sacked by Racing Buenos Aires . . . DIEGO MARADONA became the transfer target for River Plate and Independiente . . . Austria's HERBERT PROHASKA and Greek striker TOMAS MAVROS were both spied out by Leeds . . . Waregem added yet another foreigner to the Belgian League, picking up Turkish-born Finland striker ATIK ISMAIL.

**Tony Woodcock (left) in his Nottingham Forest days before moving to Cologne. He is pictured in action against Sam Allardyce of Bolton Wanderers.**

# FIFA ARE NOT HAPPY

## Brian Glanville's Soccer Notebook

**THE North American Soccer League are no great respectors of FIFA. When, at their recent annual meeting, they decided to retain the 35-yard offside law, they didn't, at the time, even bother to tell FIFA about it, though they knew very well it was FIFA's desire that they abandon it. Indeed, when I telephoned the FIFA Secretary, Dr. Helmut Kaser, in Zurich, he knew nothing about the NASL's decision.**

Kaser, and FIFA, have not been at all pleased at the NASL's obduracy. As Kaser says, it is impossible for FIFA referees to conduct satisfactory courses in the United State, if two different offside rules are being operated in varying matches. FIFA has told the United States Federation to bring the NASL into line; but with all due deference, I would say that was a little like asking a single farmhand to restrain a charging bull.

Will the NASL, then, break away from FIFA, and how far will FIFA go in enforcing their desires? So far, they have not shown any great urgency about it. There are unquestionably those clubs in the NASL which would quite happily go it alone, knowing that the world would then become their oyster, that they could raid the footballing world for players, without being obliged to pay its clubs any transfer fee.

The loans system sunk beneath the waves in this country last June, in large part thanks to an impassioned speech by Michael Gliksten, the Chairman of Charlton, bitterly upset over the prolix Mike Flanagan affair, which had deprived the club of his services for the best part of a season.

Coventry City alone, of the major clubs, wanted to continue with the loans, but then Jimmy Hill has a penchant for the American game; he has told us on television that Trevor Francis benefited and matured while playing for the Detroit Express; a club with which, like Coventry, he is connected. That's a matter of opinion. I have heard from other observers, who visited Detroit last summer, that the level of the football was derisory, that Francis could not possibly have developed his game or personality in such vulgar circumstances. You pay your money, pounds or collars, and you take your choice.

There are Presidents, owners, in the NASL who would, I think, be most reluctant to come out of FIFA. Lamar Hunt, the millionaire who has kept Dallas Tornado alive for all these years, is surely one of them; a man I have always found modest, sensible and sympathetic. George Strawbridge, the honest and dedicated President of Tampa Bay, is probably another.

About the New York Cosmos, I simply cannot make up my mind. Two of the leading roles are held by the Ertegun brothers, Ahmet and Neusyi, each of them profoundly well versed in the history and ramifications of the game, each gentlemanly and composed in his behaviour, yet apparently unable to restrain the crass excesses of fellow executives. It was one of these who cried in the locker rooms, after Cosmos had run riot against Vancouver in a League game, "I want the Commissioner in my office at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning!"

After the away game in the semi-final of the play-offs against Vancouver, when Carlos Alberto insulted the referee by throwing his shirt at him and spat over a linesman, while the Iranian Eskandarian was sent off for a brutal foul on Kevin Hector, the Cosmos actually had the brass neck to say they were sueing Phil Woosnam and the NASL for suspending both men from the return match.

There is, it seems, an idiot rule whereby no two players may be suspended from the same game — one borrowed, as if you couldn't guess, from American sports. But the NASL were able to reply that it didn't relate to the play-offs. When last I telephoned New York, Cosmos' law suit had still to be initiated.

The defenestration of Ron Newman as coach (i.e. manager) of Fort Lauderdale in the close season, by a general manager who came straight from ice hockey, was another substantial straw in the wind, another indication that whatever the NASL might be, it still isn't what the French call "serious". I've a feeling that it won't come out of FIFA, but it is surely time FIFA, who know all about the impotence of the U.S. Federation, cracked the whip, imposed a genuine ultimatum.

Do I want to see the NASL leave FIFA? Not really. They are enough of a nuisance as it is. And if they did come out of FIFA, I have no doubt that, after a year or two of chaos and depredation, they would eventually return. If only the Americans could produce their own players. But despite the Grand Illusion of that victory in Budapest over a diminished Hungarian team, there is still no sign of that happening in the foreseeable future.

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Alfredo Di Stefano rides again. A great centre-forward, if never the most amenable person in the world, I am still pleased to see him come out of the cold, resume his aegis at Valencia, and inspire the team to knock Rangers out of the Cupwinners' Cup, and climb the Spanish League table.

Di Stefano gambled bravely at Ibrox, dropping a player of the calibre of Solsona, putting in, at Ibrox, two youngsters in the shape of Subirats, in midfield, and Pablo, in attack. It abundantly worked; though the brilliance of Mario Kempes had much to do with it. Here, too, however, give credit to Di Stefano. His fellow Argentinian had not been delivering the goods before he arrived.

★ ★ ★

Tony Woodcock's depature for Cologne found Nottingham Forest in a cleft stick; a Catch 22 position, one might say. Hold on to him, and they would drop about £150,000 on the fee when his contract came to an end with the conclusion of the season; foreign clubs need pay no more than a maximum of £500,000 when fees cannot be agreed. Woodcock could scarcely afford to turn down the reported £125,000 a year, and the idea of playing in the Bundesliga clearly excited him: but I cannot help feeling that had he been treated a little more tactfully, he might have stayed. Clough's television interview towards the end of last season, when he informed the goggling millions that Woodcock had "been going through a lean time," was hardly calculated to please as shy and introverted a boy as the Nottingham Forest striker. His going, at so early an age, was, I think, a monumental loss for Forest; to add to the self-inflicted one of Archie Gemmill, who has scarcely been replaced in the Forest midfield.

All credit to Clough and Taylor for what they have done at Forest — despite recent hiccoughs — but do not forget how much of a part luck has played, as it so often does in football.

**Carol and Tony Woodcock finding their way around Cologne.**

# ANNIVERSARY — WILL IT BE FORGOTTEN?

WEDNESDAY, January 30, 1980 is an historic day for Canadian soccer, yet chances are that it will pass unmarked and virtually unnoticed. One hundred years ago on this date the Western Football Association was formed in Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario and to all intents and purposes marked the beginning of organised soccer in Canada. (The game was first played in Canada at least 20 years before this).

At first the Western Football Association was confined to the area around what are now the twin cities of Kitchener and Waterloo but it eventually spread to include the neighbouring towns and cities of Ingersoll, Preston, Galt, Dundas and Brantford and also farther afield to Toronto, Windsor and Detroit (writes COLIN JOSE).

Players from teams in the Western Football Association formed the first Canadian national team in 1885, defeating the United States 1-0 in Newark, New Jersey. One year later the tables were turned with the Americans winning 3-2.

One of the driving forces behind the formation of the Western Football Association was David Forsyth who was a teacher at Berlin High School. He introduced the game to the school as early as 1877 and from then on Berlin High School became one of the most powerful teams of their time, winning the W.F.A. trophy in the first four years of its existance.

Forsyth was also the man behind a historic tour that took place as long ago as 1888 when a Canadian representative team toured the British Isles. That tour opened on September 1st, 1888 when the Canadians beat County Antrim 6-2 in Belfast and ended on October 31st with a 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Swifts in London.

In between the Canadians tied 1-1 with Glasgow Rangers, beat Hearts 3-0, Sunderland by the same score and Middlesbrough 3-2. It was the year that marked the beginning of play in the Football League and the Canadians played four teams from the league losing all four games 0-2 to Notts County, 1-4 to Blackburn Rovers, 2-4 to Aston Villa and 0-1 to West Bromwich Albion.

However, their most important game was an international against Scotland played in Glasgow, which Scotland won 4-0. The game is not recorded in the official records of the Scottish Football Association, but the Glasgow papers reported it as a game between Canada and Scotland and the Scottish team was made up of the following players: J. Gillespie (Queens Park); D. Gow (Rangers), J. Forbes (Vale of Leven); A. Stewart (Queens Park), J. Auld (Third Lanark Rifle Volunteers), Muir (Rangers); A. Hamilton (Queens Park), W. Berry (Queens Park), H. Campbell (Renton), A. McCall (Renton and J. McPherson (Kilmarnock).

Six of this team played for Scotland in the international championship of that year and only Muir the left half was not an international of that time. The game was played at the Exhibition Grounds in Glasgow and the Canadian team included five players from the Berlin Rangers club.

Another more ambitious tour was undertaken in 1891 that involved the Western Football Association but results wise it was a disaster. A total of 58 games were played between late August and early January of which only 13 were won and 32 lost. This team included American players as well as Canadian for many players could not obtain the time off to take part in such a lengthy trip.

From these early beginnings on such an ambitious note Canadian soccer slipped and apart from the success of Galt Football Club in the Olympic Games of 1904 very little was accomplished until the last decade when for the first time Canada has begun to produce players of its own capable of holding their own among the middle class soccer nations of the world.

Oh! sure the game was quite popular during the 1920s and 1930s and also during the 1950s and 1960s when to a high degree the players were ex-Europeans and European teams touring the country during the summer months were a major attraction, but it has not been until the upsurge in interest at the minor level that Canada has looked capable of becoming a soccer nation of any standing.

One hundred years ago when the Western Football Association was formed, soccer's main rival in Canada for popularity was Canadian football that game which evolved from Rugby Football and is almost identical to the American grid game. Over the years soccer lost ground to that game and also to ice hockey and baseball and only recently has the tide begun to turn.

Ironically as soccer gains ground in Canada it is Canadian football that is losing ground, particularly in eastern Canada where at the minor level the game is almost dead, due to the enormous costs of buying the equipment and the number of serious injuries being suffered. In fact in some cities football has been dropped from the school sports programmes and replaced by soccer. This is hurting the Canadian game at the professional level dominated as it is already by American players.

Still, however, Canadian football ranks above soccer as a spectator sport as do ice hockey (the national religion) and baseball. But with the advent of the Vancouver Whitecaps, the Edmonton Drillers and the Toronto Blizzard of the North American Soccer League the tide has begun to turn and slowly Canadian soccer is beginning to get more of the media attention it deserves, but there is still a very long way to go in that field, and as a result Canada's top soccer players must still take a back seat to mediocre American baseball players.

The number of top Canadian baseball players produced in the last 20 years can be counted on the fingers of one hand, yet last season 48 Canadian soccer players saw action in the NASL many of them in key starting roles, most of them all but ignored in their own country.

Bruce Wilson, for example, captain of Canada's national team was for the second time selected to the NASL first all star team in 1979. He was preferred in the back four to such outstanding players as Francisco Marinho, Bjorn Nordqvist and Wim Suurbier. Wilson's performance for the Chicago Sting should place him well in the running for Canada's Sportsman of the Year, but it is doubtful that he will even be mentioned.

Six Canadians were named to the NASL North American All Star team in 1979, yet the Toronto Globe and Mail (which likes to call itself Canada's national newspaper, it isn't) was just one paper that failed to mention this fact.

In such a climate it is worth noting that much of the success enjoyed by the Toronto Blizzard in their first season in 1979 was due to the fact that they are owned by Global Sports Enterprises who also own the Global Television Network. Soccer programming on this network was considerably greater than on any other network in the Toronto area and as a result interest reached an all time high.

But vast distances and a lack of finances are really the biggest problem faced by Canadian soccer today just as they were one hundred years ago. As a result there is still no national league (although an attempt may be made at this shortly) and the national teams do not play anything like as frequently as they should. In fact the full national team has not played since 1977.

Some indication of the potential that exists in Canadian soccer was shown during the FIFA World Youth Tournament in Japan where Canada beat Portugal and then lost to South Korea and Paraguay. It was an indication that with more international exposure Canadian players could rank much higher in the eyes of the soccer world than they do today, and an indication that more has been achieved in the past ten years of organised soccer in Canada than in any of the previous ninety.

# World Soccer Player Portrait

## JOHNNY REP

# LOOK OUT FOR DANGER MAN IN UEFA CUP EFFORT

**WHOEVER remains in the UEFA Cup had better beware — Johnny Rep is around. And all those fans throughout the world aware of his reputation, established with Ajax and Holland, will know exactly how dangerous he can be.**

Skilful and quick, a nuisance to any defence.

But, for all his famous name, Rep has had his ups and downs over the past few years, even while his certain place in the Dutch national team had brought him to the attention of millions in Europe and South America.

(And, probably, not a few with money to spare in North America as well!)

Rep's early days are easy to recall. A reserve at first with the great Ajax of the early 1970s, he took his chance when Jackie Swaart was injured in 1973, laid on Gerrie Muhren's famous semi-final stunner away to Real Madrid, then headed the quick winner against Juventus in the Champions' Cup Final.

That was the end for Ajax. Coach Stefan Neeskens left for Spain, too. Another 12 months and Rep — who had previously felt himself too young and inexperienced — had followed suit, at 23.

He had established himself among Europe's leading forwards with his goals in the 1974 World Cup Finals and Valencia — whose Dutch leanings began with Fass Wilkes in the 1950s — considered him the greatest transfer coup in their history (later that accolade would fall on the shoulders of Mario Kempes).

Emil Oesterreicher, the one-time Honved then Real Madrid technical director, had done all the leg work, and though he didn't speak Dutch and Rep then didn't speak Spanish, they had managed easily to find agreement in German.

However, Rep's career in Spain was never well-founded. For a start he had to leave his family in Amsterdam at first and with his wife, Trudi, having just given birth to their second child his mind, not surprisingly, wasn't wholly on his football.

Add to that the difficulties inherent in a new environment, new language and new diet and it's no surprise Rep had trouble adjusting.

## Acquisition

The new diet was to blame for his earliest setback. The club had promoted their pre-season tournament, the Trofeo Naranja, as the fans' first opportunity to see the new acquisition. Unfortunately Rep ate something that didn't agree with him, and was stuck in bed in his hotel!

His Spanish campaign had started on the wrong foot and would never really right itself. He made his debut eventually in a friendly against Honved but gave few glimpses of his talent either then or for most of the first half of the league.

Valencia, admittedly, had their problems. For a start, to accommodate Rep they had been forced to sell Kurt Jara, the Austrian who was their only consistent midfielder, under the two-foreigners rule. Then, barely a month into the season, results became so bad and internal dissent so distracting that president Ramos Costa fired Oesterricher, Yugoslav coach Milosevic and his Spanish aide, Sanchez Lage.

Rep stuck it out one more year, then paid £150,000 to buy out his contract, under guidance from Cruyff's father-in-law, Cor Coster.

## New step

He'd been Valencia's top scorer in his second season with 13 goals but despite a number of offers remained undecided for some weeks about his new step. So, on settling accounts with Valencia he took his family on the Costa Brava for a fortnight to forget all about football before returning to Amsterdam and training up the Zuider Zee coast with Volendam.

Not with Ajax, partly because Rep hadn't left the club on the best of terms, partly because they had already begun preparing for the new season and he didn't want to interfere or spark rumours which might unsettle the other players.

# by Keir Radnedge

So in the end he signed for . . . Bastia of Corsica. On the face of it an odd move, but financially rewarding — a fact which should be clear from the fact that talks were conducted not with the club, but with their sponsor.

There was one other temptation. The previous season, against all the odds, Bastia had sneaked a path into the UEFA Cup. Yet in so doing they had lost their star, Yugoslav Dragan Dzajic, who after two years had returned to Belgrade.

Rep was his big-name replacement.

He started quietly in a league defeat by Bordeaux. But to counter the immediate sense of deception he was quick to promise: "We'll have a great season. I just feel it. The World Cup is next summer, too, and I want to play for Holland in Argentina. So you can be sure I'll be trying extra hard this season. . . . Valencia? Well, that's part of my career I want to forget. The only good thing was that I learnt Spanish there. As for the rest. . . ."

## Glory

And thus determined to make amends he was pleased to find Bastia, with their fanatical fans in the stifling Furiani stadium, much more to his taste. In his first season, despite a shoulder injury and a blank patch of three months without a goal, he nevertheless inspired the Corsicans to the remarkable glory of the UEFA Cup Final — where they lost to Rep's countrymen from PSV Eindhoven — and in the championship he scored 18 goals.

One of them had long-term significance. It was a brilliant individual effort away to Saint-Etienne and strongly impressed the *Verts'* president, Roger Rocher, and his general manager, Pierre Garonnaire. It also impressed the fans, who forgot their adherence to Saint-Etienne for a few minutes to chant his name.

From that point on Rep became a marked man at Saint-Etienne and when Bastia ran into troubles both on the pitch and with the bank Rocher moved in last summer to buy him in the middle of a four-year contract.

He was the last man the Corsicans could afford to lose, yet he was also the last man they could afford to keep!

## Reserves

But while Rep was in between clubs, so he was summoned again to the international stage, in Argentina.

Rep's World Cup was a mixture. Before the squad left he appeared to figure among the reserves and he admitted to being confused, complaining that he wasn't sure what coach Ernst Happel wanted or expected of him.

Yet he scored that marvellous 30-yarder that rescued the Dutch from the brink against Scotland, lifting them into the second round where his double against Austria helped to propel Holland on to that grim showdown with Argentina.

"We had better individuals in 1974," said Rep, looking back to his first World Cup Final defeat, 2-1 by West Germany. "But in Argentina we were much more aware as a team. We helped each other more, and of course we're more experienced.

"We didn't play well in our first three games in Mendoza. But the pitch wasn't very good and the altitude upset us. I've never been so tired after a match."

But then, the Dutch squad were stuck up in the mountains at Potrerillos, and if there's one thing Rep does not appreciate it is the boredom of long concentrations. Harold Robbins fan though he is, you can have too much of reading and playing cards.

On his return Rep, almost ignored by the fashionable French sports media while stationed offshore at Bastia, was suddenly all over the newspapers and television, now he had joined Saint-Etienne. His already impressive fan mail — most from adoring girls — increased and increased again.

## Fancy

The French found it flattering but hard to understand at first why Rep had preferred to join Saint-Etienne and turn down an offer from Ajax. A pre-contract with the Dutch had been signed and Rep's wife was already dreaming of home. Children, Cindy (six) and Mark (four) could go to Dutch schools at last!

But Rep, looking ahead no doubt to the days when his career had ended, didn't fancy Dutch tax rates. That's when Garonnaire pounced.

Rep didn't hesitate.

"A good contract, good wages, good team, good fans," he said. "What more could I ask. And I'm not a mercenary. Certainly earning well is important. But once I've signed my contract that's the end of it. I don't worry any more about the money, I just concentrate on playing.

"Not that this is always so easy. Rep, clouted near the end of the previous season by Oswaldo Piazza when playing *against* Saint-Etienne, took an almighty pounding when he had barely been with Saint-Etienne five minutes and missed early league games.

## Lesson

At least, to his credit, he didn't explode in his old fashion. He'd suffered a red card or two in Spain for retaliation and had learned his lesson.

This time he waited until his return, against Nantes, to express his contempt for opposing defenders, scoring with a superb volley in a 4-2 win.

A similar goal in the UEFA Cup first round helped Saint-Etienne overcome the rugged Poles of Lodz and with Rep fully understanding the senior role his days at Ajax had created for him, the Saints have put together a European run promising not much less than their 1976 successes in the Champions' Cup.

But there is more, of course, to this season, than club success. In June Holland go to Italy for the European Championship Finals hoping to improve on their third place from 1976.

Rep is sure to be there. And since the season will be over, there's no way Saint-Etienne can hold him back — though

Rocher tried to prevent Rep appearing in the recent qualifier against Poland.

Rep politely let it be known through the newspapers that it didn't matter what anyone at Saint-Etienne said or threatened to do, he intended travelling to Amsterdam to play for Holland and that was final. Rocher could do little but back down graciously.

But what will happen in the next two years? Holland have been drawn in the same World Cup qualifying group as France!

## Natural

Rep will worry about that when it happens. He takes life, and football, as it comes, creating the false impression sometimes that he doesn't think seriously about the game, just relies on his natural talent to ghost in from the right to find those spectacular scoring positions.

Rep revealed his other side, talking about the prospects for Saint-Etienne in Europe this season: "We are not Ajax, but we need to apply their methods if we are to do well. That is, we need to keep on pressing our opponents. But that doesn't mean belting the ball upfield and everyone rushing after it. There's no profit in that.

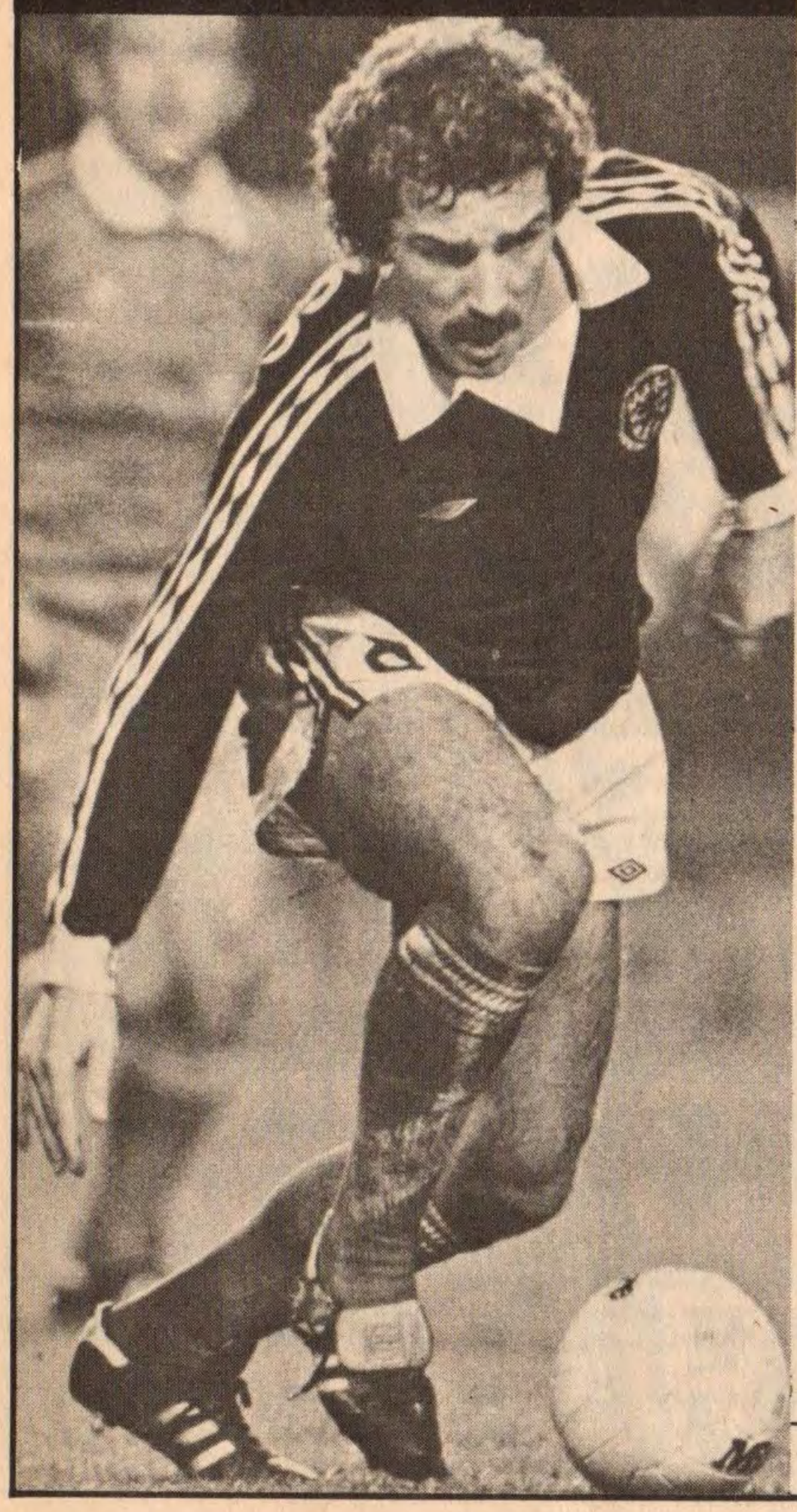
"What is necessary is to take the game to our opponents so as to occupy every part of their half, so we have possession, so they are always having to chase.

"The other factor is, never give up. Often it's in the last 15 minutes rather than the first 15 that a European tie is lost or won, because that is when the team with a high morale can keep going, having worn their opponents down."

Rep knows all about success. He's a member of an elite who have grown used to playing their football at the highest level, contributing decisively in the major finals.

"It's impossible to imagine that, at 28, it's all over yet for John Nicolas Rep.

# LION WITH NO ROAR



## ALEX GORDON reports from

**SCOTLAND, the lion that lost its roar, shamble into soccer in the Eighties like a blind man groping for a lifeline. The last year has been one long nightmare for the fans with the team collapsing weakly whenever the challenges had to be met.**

The pathetic, abysmal, mindless performance against Belgium in Brussels in the so-called "crunch" European Championship match seemed to sum up all too perfectly the enormous failings and lack of direction of the team. Scotland were as subtle as an air raid. Instead of yearning for success it was a case of yawning for sleep.

It was a blunder and fumble display by a set of professionals who looked as though they had been introducted to a football a couple of minutes before the kick-off. Alan Rough was blameless for the 2-0 defeat as he had little cover from a statuesque defence and had no chance with either goal. Iain Munro and Willie Miller worked hard and Kenny Dalglish must have been wondering if his deoderant had let him down in the attack as he searched for colleagues.

I think some of the players who donned the dark blue of their country in Brussels won't be picking up many — if any! — caps in the Eighties.

Joe Jordan led the attack with all the penetration of a rubber knife. I'm afraid Joe is no longer a fearsome sight on the international scene as he races down on defences like something out of a Dracula movie. One thing is certain, as far as Scotland goes he has obviously lost his bite.

He simply disappeared against the Belgians. It wasn't just a case of a player using his imagination to pick him out with a long, probing through ball. Binoculars might have been better.

I'm afraid Joe's days as a Scotland striker are well and truly numbered. He didn't have one solitary attempt at goal against Belgium and that is a sad statistic. Even if Joe had been taking defenders away from Dalglish then he would have been contributing something, but that wasn't even happening.

I've got to admit I was a great fan of Jordan in the 1974 World Cup Finals. His courage, strength and determination made him an ideal strike-force leader, but those essential ingredients of his game were missing in Brussels. I thought he might not have been fit after a fairly long lay off through injury, but, remember, he had scored a goal against Crystal Palace before that game and the following Saturday he netted two against Norwich.

Asa Hartford, too, may be moving aside soon. He appears to have lost the bite in midfield that made him such an outstanding ball-winner and 90-minute man. Giving him the benefit of the doubt, he, too, didn't look completely fit against Belgium, but he played the following Saturday for his club Everton in their draw with Spurs at Goodison. Anyway, Jock Stein has already gone on record as saying he will not select players for his country unless they are proven to be 100 per cent fit.

I've said it before and I'll probably say it again, but John Wark is a real puzzle in a Scottish jersey. I haven't got a single clue as to what role he is supposed to be filling. Sometimes he plays wide on the right and I wouldn't think that is his best position. He comes inside, but tends to get cluttered up beside the likes of Dalglish, Hartford and Graeme Souness.

One thing in Wark's favour, however, is the mere fact that only he and John Robertson had shots on target against the Belgians. Isn't that a nonsensical statistic? Scotland had to win in Brussels to keep alive their fading hopes of getting to the Finals in Italy, but the best they could come up with was the pitiful total of two shots on target. Both, I hasten to add, were straight at goalkeeper Custers, but we have got to be thankful for what we receive, I suppose.

Souness is another enigma. He is continually compared with Jim Baxter, one of the greatest-ever Rangers players, but he has got to match that comparison.

It's a pity really, because there is no doubt that the Liverpool man has a lot to contribute, but the international arena is where judgment must be brutally frank and he just hasn't sparkled for Scotland on any consistent basis. There must be a good reason for that somewhere. . . .

Alan Hansen, too, hasn't enjoyed the best of success for his country. He made his debut last year when John Toshack tore him and Paul Hegarty to shreds in a one-man demolition job as the Welsh walloped the Scots 3-0.

# Scotland

He also played against Argentina when another three goals were crammed into the Scottish net. He missed the games against Norway, Peru and Austria before returning against Belgium and being forced to watch Alan Rough pick the ball from the net on another two occasions.

Highlighting the lethargy that seems to inflict the casual Hansen when he plays for Scotland was an incident near the end of the debacle in Brussels. He had plenty of time to knock a pass back to Rough, but elected to try something fancy only six yards from goal, was robbed easily and the goalkeeper had to pull off a wonderful diving save to his left to push away a shot from Francios Van Der Elst, who must have wondered if the Scottish defence was taking this game seriously.

Hansen has youth on his side and his time will come round again, but let's hope there is a change in his attitude. One thing I must say, however, is that his heading ability is certainly getting better although he was drawn out of position one minute after half-time when Wilfred Van Moer clipped over a high ball that fell at the feet of Voordeckers who thundered a low drive into the Scottish net, drilling another nail into the coffin.

John Robertson got a lot of the ball against Belgium, but his stop-go, stop-go style presented little problems to a defence that had obviously done its homework.

The "experts" say Robertson is a class player, but I have still to be convinced. The role of any out-and-out winger — as Robertson surely is as far as Scotland is concerned — is to get the ball across into the danger zone and Robertson has rarely displayed that ability consistently while playing for his country.

So, it's been another year to forget for the tartan army. Can you really blame them for going bananas when they occasionally win at Wembley?

Jock Stein took on a thankless task when he agreed to guide his nation. The team was still wondering around with glazed eyeballs after insanity in Argentina when he moved in. He needed time to get things right. Now, after 11 games in charge of the side, he faces the moment of truth.

This will be a crucial year for him as well as the team, make no mistake about that. He has worked overtime trying to get the blend and pattern he wants. Against Peru and Austria it looked as though things were at last coming right.

The team was playing with balance and flair. The players knew their roles and the quick one-twos played on the ground were a joy to behold. There were no more useless high balls hammered into the opposing goalmouth with monotonous regularity that were always bound to fail.

It looked as though things were clicking into place. The final piece of the jigsaw was a goalscorer to finish of all the good moves that were being created. Then, against Belgium in Brussels, the team took a nosedive again.

Typical of Stein, he has refused to blame injuries to players such as Gordon McQueen, Kenny Burns, Arthur Graham, Archie Gemmill and Andy Gray for that defeat.

That's a fair chunk of talent to lose, but Scotland, really, should have players to stand in and accept responsibility in moments of emergency. That didn't happen in Brussels.

My hope is that the style and structure that was shown against the Peruvians and the Austrians is recaptured. But there can be no lapses in concentration that has cost Scotland so dearly in the past. Scotland should have beaten Peru and Austria, but because of mental blockages, goals were given away, chances were squandered and, in the end, Stein had to be content with 1-1 draws.

Will Scotland ever grow up and become a force to be reckoned with? God knows! I sat and watched them at Wembley and went from peaks of delight to depths of despair. The transformation that hits the side is astonishing.

Against England there was no heart when George Wood went through his amateurish juggler's routine and presented a gift second goal to Steve Coppell. That put England ahead, but Scotland couldn't fight back the way their rivals had done when John Wark had scored the opener.

The heads went down, players hid and there was only one outcome after that . . . England just couldn't lose. It was a lamentable performance and there must be no repeats in this new era.

Changes must be made and players who haven't accepted the opportunity to become mainstays in Jock Stein's plans should be told politely where to go.

Okay, instead of dwelling on the miseries of the recent past, let's take a look into the future to see what Scotland might expect. Having mown down half the team in Brussels, the next question must be: Who comes in?

**Alan Hansen — useful.**

Like I said earlier, there is no way Alan Rough can be blamed for that particular defeat, but the axe is still hovering over his head and I suspect he knows it, too.

George Wood is just another version of Alan Rough. Both can be spectacular, but both can be sinners. So, to whom do we look? Bristol City's John Shaw might get an opportunity to show what he can do and good luck to him. Luton's Jake Findlay might also get a chance somewhere along the line.

Under-21 goalkeeper Billy Thomson — once an understudy of Rough at Partick Thistle — has never let down his country and he deserves to be considered. Aberdeen have too good youngsters in Jim Leighton and John Gardiner. Kilmarnock's Alan McCulloch will get better with experience and he could follow in the footsteps of other Rugby Park goalkeepers who have represented their country such as Sandy McLaughlin, Campbell Forsyth, Bobby Ferguson, Ally Hunter and Jim Stewart.

Stein must be hoping that at least one of the aforementioned will grab the opportunity in safe hands and clutch it like a vice. Personally, I've always liked the look of "forgotten man" Keith MacRae, presently passing the hours in the Manchester City reserves while Joe Corrigan performs fairly consistently in the top side.

Eighteen months ago Scotland proudly went to Argentina boasting the best midfield trio in the world in the shape of Hartford, Don Masson and Bruce Rioch. How times have changed! Masson and Rioch are firmly in the past and it looks as though Hartford is ready to join them. Archie Gemmill is a marvellous motivator, but age is obviously against him when you look to the future.

Celtic's Roy Aitken must be given his chance. The player certainly won't fail for the lack of trying and there is no way he even thinks about searching for a vacant air pocket when the going gets rough. He is a player around whom a solid foundation can be built and he should get his opportunity now.

# PARAGUAY DESE

## South American International Scene by ERIC WEIL

Chilean goalkeeper Osben is beaten by Peru's Mosquera for Peru's only goal in the first leg of the South American Championship semi-final in Lima. Chile won 2-1 and then drew 0-0 at home to go through to the final on a 2-1 aggregate.

**ALTHOUGH Brazil did not get through their South American Championship qualifying group too easily against Bolivia and Argentina's second team (if that), it still came as somewhat of a surprise when Paraguay knocked them out in the semi-finals. Paraquay deservedly beat Brazil 2-1 in the first leg in Asunción and qualified for the final when they held Brazil 2-2 as Rio's Maracana stadium a week later in front of 160,000 fanatical and disappointed fans.**

Brazil's controversial coach, Claudio Coutinho, said after the first leg that his team were surprised by two terrific first-half goals (scored by Eugenio Morel and Talavera) from which it took them time to recover — until 10 minutes from the end in fact, when Palinha reduced the arrears with a header. The bare facts are that Paraguay outplayed Brazil in the first half and although the Brazilians held their rivals in the second half, they could never get on top and their attacks were well held by the tight Paraguayan defence. It could not all be explained by the absence of Brazil's leading midfielder Zico (injured) as the rest of the line-up (see Classified Results) was composed mostly of World Cup men.

Heleno Nunes, president of the Brazilian Sports Confederation (CBD), said it had been the worst performance by a Brazilian team he had ever seen, but denied a threat — apparently misinterpreted, that coach Coutinho would be fired.

Apart from Zico, Coutinho also had problems to put his best team in the field, due to other injuries and the refusal of clubs to give their star players enough time off for national team training, but later he admitted that he had also left out Flamengo players Carpegiani, Tita and Junior to improve his club Flamengo's chances in a vital league match three days later. "I took the risk and responsibility for defeat," he said.

Carpegiani and Tita were back for the second leg, but not still injured Zico . . . and without him Brazil looked very ordinary and disorganised. Brazil twice took the lead (Falcao 28 minutes, Socrates 63 minutes) for Paraguay to equalise almost immediately (Milciades Morel 30 minutes, Romerito 68 minutes) and the result was fair. Paraguay had come to play for a draw with a 4-4-2 formation, but it turned out easier than expected.

Coutinho again stood accused of playing "second-raters" from Rio de Janeiro teams and overlooking good footballers in the Sao Paulo League just to please the powers that be in Brazilian soccer. It is also continually said that whenever Coutinho has to take a decision, he takes the wrong one. But the Flamengo club think he is the best coach in South America and are renewing his contract for another year at 7,500 dollars a month which, with bonuses and other side benefits, is said to amount to 13,000 dollars.

### Evergreen

Chile beat defending champions Peru 2-1 in the first leg in Lima in the other semi-final with two goals from their evergreen winger Caszely and well led by another experienced veteran international, defender Elias Figueroa, whose tactical sense proved invaluable. Peru equalised through Mosquera with 20 minutes to go, but Caszely, often the only forward up as Chile played defensively, scored the winner five minutes later. Apart from several Peruvians playing below form, they also seemed to go wrong tactically in leaving three men back to mark Caszely. All three goals came from headers following free kicks and it was Chile's first win in Peru for 11 years.

Peruvian coach Jose Chiarella was naturally the scapegoat. The press blamed him, among other things, for applying tactics from a book bought at the corner drug store and also for refusing to call-up World Cup star midfielder Teofilo Cubillas on holiday in Lima during the North American Soccer League close season. When Chiarella, under pressure, called him up for the second leg, Cubillas declined saying he had not quite recovered from a muscle strain and was out of training — which was correct.

Nevertheless, Peru gave a better display in the second leg to hold Chile 0-0 in front of an 80,000 capacity crowd (paying a new record 300,000-dollar gate) at Santiago's national stadium. Both sides finished a rough match with 10 men — Rojas (P.) being sent off after 33 minutes and Figueroa (Ch.) six minutes later — and Chile were again more on the defensive, but did not have much trouble in holding Peru's desperate attempts to score and force a play-off. It left Chile leading with an 11-9-9- record in 29 meetings between the two countries since 1935.

**ELSEWHERE . . .**

● FIXTURES for the end-of-the-year tournament in Montevideo to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first World Cup tournament there have already been made (with Holland replacing England, who withdrew), but Brazil are still not sure how they will be able to raise a team to participate with a congestion of regional championship fixtures at the time.

The six countries — all previous World Cup winners except Holland, who reached the last two finals — play in two groups of three with the top two from each group qualifying for the semi-finals. Dates are: Group 1: December 26 Uruguay v Italy; December 29 Argentina v Italy; January 2, 1981, Argentina v Uruguay. Group 2: December 27 Brazil v West Germany; December 30 West Germany v Holland; January 3 Holland v Brazil. Semi-finals: January 6 and 7. Final: January 10.

# RVED SUCCESS

# Havelange to visit Colombia for 1986 World Cup decision

● FIFA president, Joao Havelange, was due to visit Colombia in January while the Colombian government's "evaluation committee" was going to present its report on the country's possibility of holding the 1986 World Cup finals at the same time . . . which should clear the air on this yet-not-finally-decided matter.

Meanwhile, Mike Forero Nougues, director of the Colombian Institute for Youth and Sport (COLDEPORTES) said that after studying plans he reached the conclusion that Colombia could not do it as soccer officials could not even organise their domestic soccer properly yet. He said that five years had been wasted in conferences since Colombia was awarded the finals and that it was about time to tell the world whether they can stage them or not. "Colombian officials fought to get the World Cup," he added, "but have done nothing about it since them."

● THE OLYMPIC QUALIFYING South American zone tournament in Colombia in January has brought up two different points of view . . . Uruguay, who withdrew from the recent Pan American Games soccer tournament because they felt that the team was not truly amateur, now say that there are only 120 amateurs registered with the Uruguayan FA from which to pick the Olympic team from . . . Coach Cesar Monotti meanwhile says that he will pick the Argentine team from players who do not have contracts registered with the Argentine FA — which means all provincial league teams, amateur, semi-professional or professional. In fact he has mentioned that the basis of the squad may be the Talleres (Cordoba) club which has just qualified for the finals of the national championship again. He could, of course, not include Talleres' several World Cup players but the other experienced players on the staff who have helped to make the club one of the strongest in the country.

● IN BUENOS AIRES they announce a show match between America and Europe for June 28 at River Plate's World Cup stadium for the benefit of UNICEF.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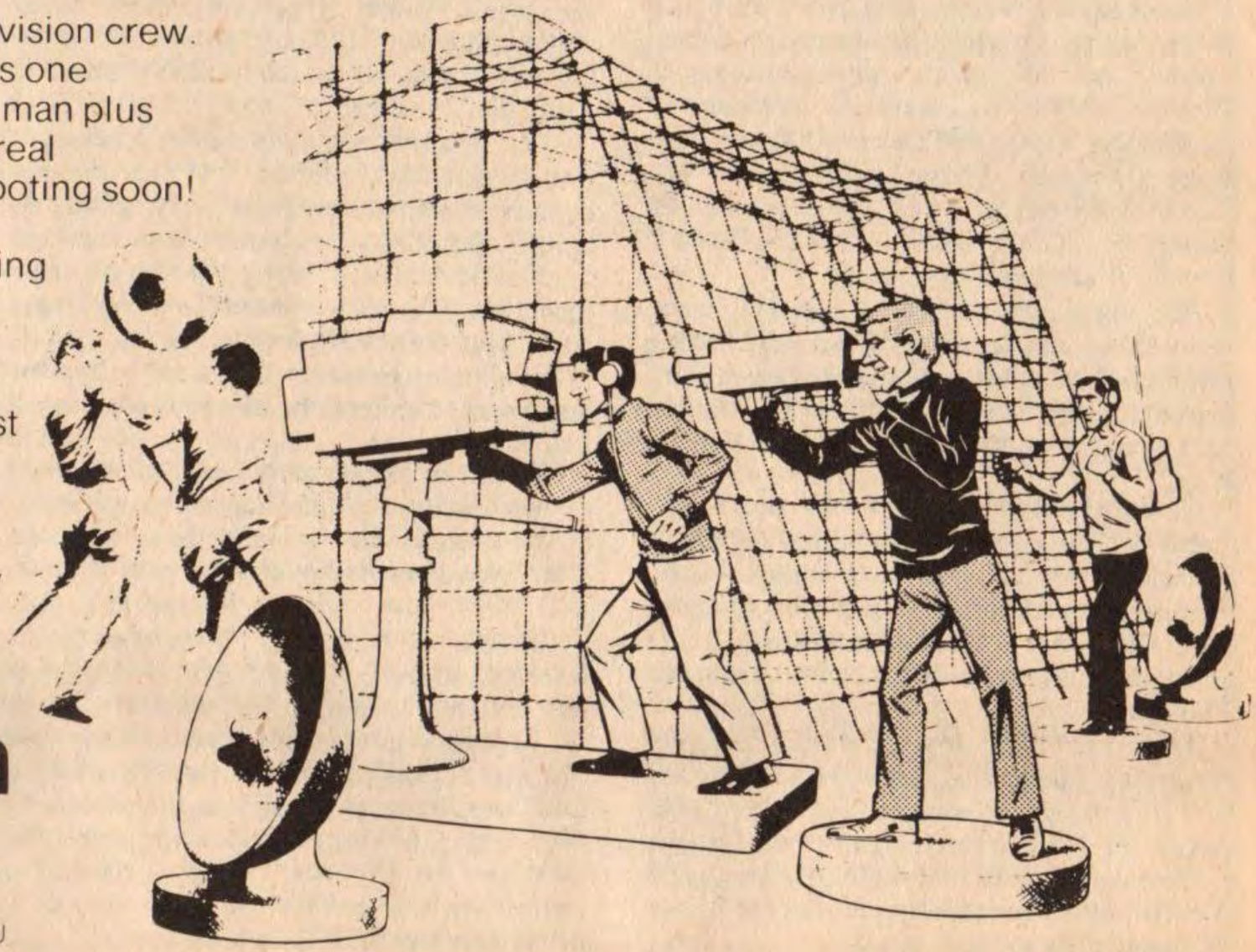

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# HUNGARY KEEP HOPES ALIVE

**THERE is still hope for Hungary to qualify for the Olympic Games football Finals in Moscow. Remembering the country's outstanding record in this competition, plus the fact that they regard themselves as legitimate contenders for a purely "amateur" title, the importance of this tournament must not be underestimated.**

It also serves as a "last hope" in a season which saw Hungary fall to Greece in the European Championship, and in which the club's exploits in the international arena were dismal, notwithstanding Diosgyor's gallant efforts in the UEFA Cup.

Due to FIFA machinations with the "marbles" in what is laughily called "the draw", Hungary had to beat Rumania first to qualify for a three-strong tournament with Czechoslovakia and Poland for just one place in the Finals.

First, the Czechs played Poland twice, and as luck would have it, beat them twice — 1-0 on both occasions. These results gave them an immense advantage, especially after Poland defeated Hungary in Wroclaw 1-0.

Clearly, two home victories were imperative for the Magyars to give them a fighting chance against the Czechs, and as I said before, desperate situations call for desperate measures.

Consequently, Dr. Karoly Lakat decided to rely more and more on Diosgyor players for his selection, and to ensure maximum public support, the matches were staged in the same small provincial town as well.

Poland were duly beaten 2-0 in a scruffy match in which the fighting qualities were more evident than any real improvement in playing standards. Against Czechoslovakia, Dr. Lakat selected the following squad. (Remember, no player involved in the previous World Cup competition is eligible for the Olympic Games tournament!):

Goalkeepers: Vereb (Diosgyor), Zsiboras (Ferencvaros): Defenders: Szanto, Salamon, Kutasi (all Diosgyor), Dunai (Dozsa), Paroczai (Honved), Baranyi (Videoton): Midfielders: Olah and Tatar (both Diosgyor), Nagy (Honved), Karsai (Videoton): Forwards: Borostyan and Fekete (both Diosgyor), Kiss (Vasas), Kefete (Dozsa), Pogany (Ferencvaros).

All eight (!) Diosgyor players were included in the team itself, and they were reinforced (if that's the right word) by Baranyi in the back-four, Karsai (back after four years) at midfield, and the Vasas striker, Kiss.

Czechoslovakia missed Vizek and Stambachr on European Championship duty, and Macela, who has had two yellow cards. Hungary played well in the first half-hour and took a deserved 3-0 lead (Tatar, Karsai, Kiss) in front of an enthusiastic 22,000 crowd at Diosgyor.

They used the cross field ball to good advantage, the midfielders were adventurous and the forwards enterprising. Dr. Lakat asked for more effort at half-time, but the Czechs came out of their defensive shell, and Vereb in the Hungarian goal was the busier 'keeper in the second period.

## by Leslie Vernon

**Czechoslovakia:** Semen (Lok. Kosice) — Muzura (Brno), Radimec (Ostrava), Nachtmann (Sparta Prague), Rygel (Ostrava) — Sreiner (Ostrava), Vallavicek (Brno), Berger (Dukla) — Janecka (Brno), Herda (Sparta Prague), Licka (Ostrava).

The 3-0 victory means that Hungary now only (!) need one point in Prague to qualify, but the Czechs will be stronger through the inclusion of Vizek and Stambachr. Nevertheless, after months of depression,. there is some optimism once again in Hungary, because as Dr. Lakat says, this team is capable of better performances.

It is too early to say whether the "Diosgyor-idea" will or won't be carried forward into the World Cup qualifiers — a great deal depends on the performances and results during next spring. Hungary won't start their quest for a place in the World Cup until the early part of 1981! The players themselves were very happy with the result, but showed a healthy disregard for the "score-line" which was described as "exaggerated".

**Gabor Szanto said: "We must not play for a draw in Prague, that would be suicidal. It isn't my job to formulate tactics, but I feel we ought to go out for a win over there!"**

Laszlo Karsai: "It is marvellous to be back in the international fray after a long time in the wilderness. The next year could be vital for Hungarian football."

I agree with that opinion wholeheartedly. In 1980, they have only one competitive game — the match in Prague against Czechoslovakia. Whether they quailfy for Moscow or not — the Czech football is very strong at the moment — team building must begin now for the much more important World Cup matches ahead. Hungary are in the same group as England, Switzerland, Norway and Rumania.

With two teams qualifying for Spain, the task is not too daunting, but this present bunch cannot take even the Norwegians too lightly. But there has aways been enough "natural talent" in Hungarian football to formulate an attractive team for World Cups, and I prefer to be optimistic.

**(Despite my colleague Eric Batty's forecast last month. Incidentally, do you fancy a small bet, Eric?)**

While the Diosgyor players transformed themselves into national heroes, they faltered in the league matches, and are only eighth after 14 games. Although they beat Honved 2-1, they lost 3-1 to Ferencvaros last Saturday, and were also beaten by Kaiserslautern 2-0 at home. (But that is another sad Hungarian football story!)

There is no outstanding team in the league this season, and the championship seems a four-horse race. Honved lead the table with 20 points, followed by Ferencvaros and Videoton on 19 each. "Fradi" have had a terrible spell, when they were beaten by both newly promoted PVSK and Volan!

# England European

**ALTHOUGH England were drawn in an easy group, the way in which they cantered through to the quarter finals suggest they have a very good chance of winning the European Under-21 Championships, and indeed it surprises me that England do not dominate either this series or the UEFA Youth Cup.**

**Of course England have done well in previous Under-21 and Under-23 competitions, as well as the Under-18 series, but because they have the advantage of fielding young players with First Division experience they should have done even better.**

**The re-orgainsation that followed the appointment of Ron Greenwood clearly improves England's chances for each England team now has a permanent manager and everything is better organised and continuity built in to the planning.**

**Manager Bobby Robson has a broad range of talented players at his disposal and England are helped by the rule that allows two over-age players for they can field experienced older players in positions where it counts most.**

**But if it is unfair to single out individuals, I really believe that in the Stoke City inside forward Garth Crooks, England have a real match-winner. Scotland, too, are virtually certain to qualify, benefiting from similar advantages as England, for in many continental European countries, youngsters are not allowed to play First Division football until they are eighteen.**

**Russia also look as if they could do well in this series and have shown up well in the past with their youngsters doing much better than their full international side. In particular they have looked very promising in the FIFA-Coca Cola competitions and at Youth level. But something seems to go wrong with the Russian players as they mature with many promising youngsters failing to develop to their full potential.**

**Perhaps it is the rigid, Italian-like defensive tactics which dominate Russian League football, but whatever the reason I am sure it must be causing concern in Moscow.**

**My old friends from Yugoslavia also qualified easily, winning their group by a handsome margin and, of course, they were an outstanding side in the last series when they eliminated England. I have always felt that the Yugoslavs have an abundance of talent, for some unexplained reason, far more gifted players than any other European country.**

**Their only problem is to organise their teams and develop the talent. But once more they seem to be on the right lines.**

# should dominate U21 Championship

## by Eric Batty

Not surprisingly, Spain, who were in Yugoslavia's group, failed miserably and this no doubt reflects the fact that the big clubs are much more interested in engaging foreign players for big transfer fees, than they are in developing their own youngsters. It is too easy for Spanish clubs to import players of alleged Spanish descent from South America, and Argentina in particular. So why should the clubs spend money on youth development programmes?

Czechoslovakia take the junior UEFA competitions seriously and have reached the quarter-finals more easily than their table suggests. They had already clinched their place when they came to play their last match away to France and though they lost 0-1 it did not matter.

East Germany take the series very seriously, calling their players together for training frequently.

Just what importance the DFV attaches to development of their teams can be guaged from some recent results that may have escaped the attention of many readers.

In November, the 1980 UEFA Youth team played two drawn matches (both 1-1) against Rumania, and that same week their probable 1981 (!) UEFA Youth teams beat Poland's 1981 Youth team 3-0 and 3-0. Planning so far ahead indicates they really mean business.

Significantly, East Germany won their group in the Under-21 series by a nose from Poland, but Holland were left as spectators, picking up only one point from four games.

But I understand that in Holland they did not even have one get-together for their team, and take a very casual approach to the competition.

Russia skated their group, and by agreement with the Finns did not even bother to play their remaining fixture at home. The Russians did not need the points and the Finns, who could achieve nothing, clearly decided to economise and save the expense of sending their squad to the Soviet Union.

Hungary, too, got through comfortable, suggesting that there is no shortage of talented youngsters there. But as in Russia their gifted players fail to mature and measure up to the required standards at the full international level, perhaps because the incentives that are inherent in the West European football business, are lacking in Hungary.

The Italians also look to have a strong side, though perhaps Switzerland and Luxembourg were no test. But unlike Spain, the Italian clubs have been forced by their frontiers being closed to pay attention to home based youngsters and this shows I think.

Garth Crooks of Stoke City.

Italy still have to meet Luxembourg at home, and if it is unthinkable that they could be eliminated by losing to them, it is also significant that their results indicate that the Under-21 side is being schooled to play that abomination, *catenaccio*.

So with England, Yugoslavia, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and almost certainly Scotland and Italy through to the last eight, it appears to have the makings of an exciting finish, and hopefully, a lot of good football to come.

A word about West Germany who declined to enter. They presumably prefer to blood their players in 'B' internationals of which they play quite a lot, but overall I feel that the competitive edge that playing in Europe gives in an excellent feature, and their players would surely benefit.

There is no reason why 'B' internationals should not be played in addition to Under-21 matches and I feel strongly that competition can only do good for everyone.

Even the smaller countries like Finland can benefit, for their coaches can point to their poor results and reasonably exhort their young players to train harder and give more time to the game, and developing their talent by practising more.

**Group 1**

Denmark-England 1-2 & 0-1; Denmark-Bulgaria 2-0 & 0-1; Bulgaria-England 1-3 & 5-0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ENGLAND | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 8 |
| Denmark | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Bulgaria | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 2 |

**Group 2**

Belgium-Norway 4-0 & 0-0; Portugal-Belgium 0-0 & 1-2; Scotland-Norway 5-1 & 2-2; Norway-Portugal 0-0 & 2-1; Portugal-Scotland 0-3; Belgium-Scotland 0-1.
To be played: Scotland v Beldium; Scotland v Portugal.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCOTLAND | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 7 |
| Belgium | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| Norway | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 5 |
| Portugal | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 |

**Group 3**

Spain-Yugoslavia 0-1 & 1-1; Cyprus-Spain 0-0; Yugoslavia-Cyprus 1-0 & 1-1.
To be played: Spain v Cyprus.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YUGOSLAVIA | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Spain | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Cyprus | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

**Group 4**

DDR-Holland 2-0 & 1-1; Poland-DDR 1-1 & 1-4; Holland-Poland 2-3 & 1-2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EAST GERMANY | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Poland | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| Holland | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 |

**Group 5**

France-Sweden 2-1 & 0-0; Sweden-Czechoslovakia 0-1 & 0-1; Czechoslovakia-France 1-0 & 0-1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CZECHOSLOVAKIA | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| France | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Sweden | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

**Group 6**

Finland-Greece 0-1 & 1-3; Greece-Russia 0-3 & 1-2; Finland-Russia 0-2.
NOT BEING PLAYED: Russia v Finland.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUSSIA | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| Greece | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| Finland | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

**Group 7**

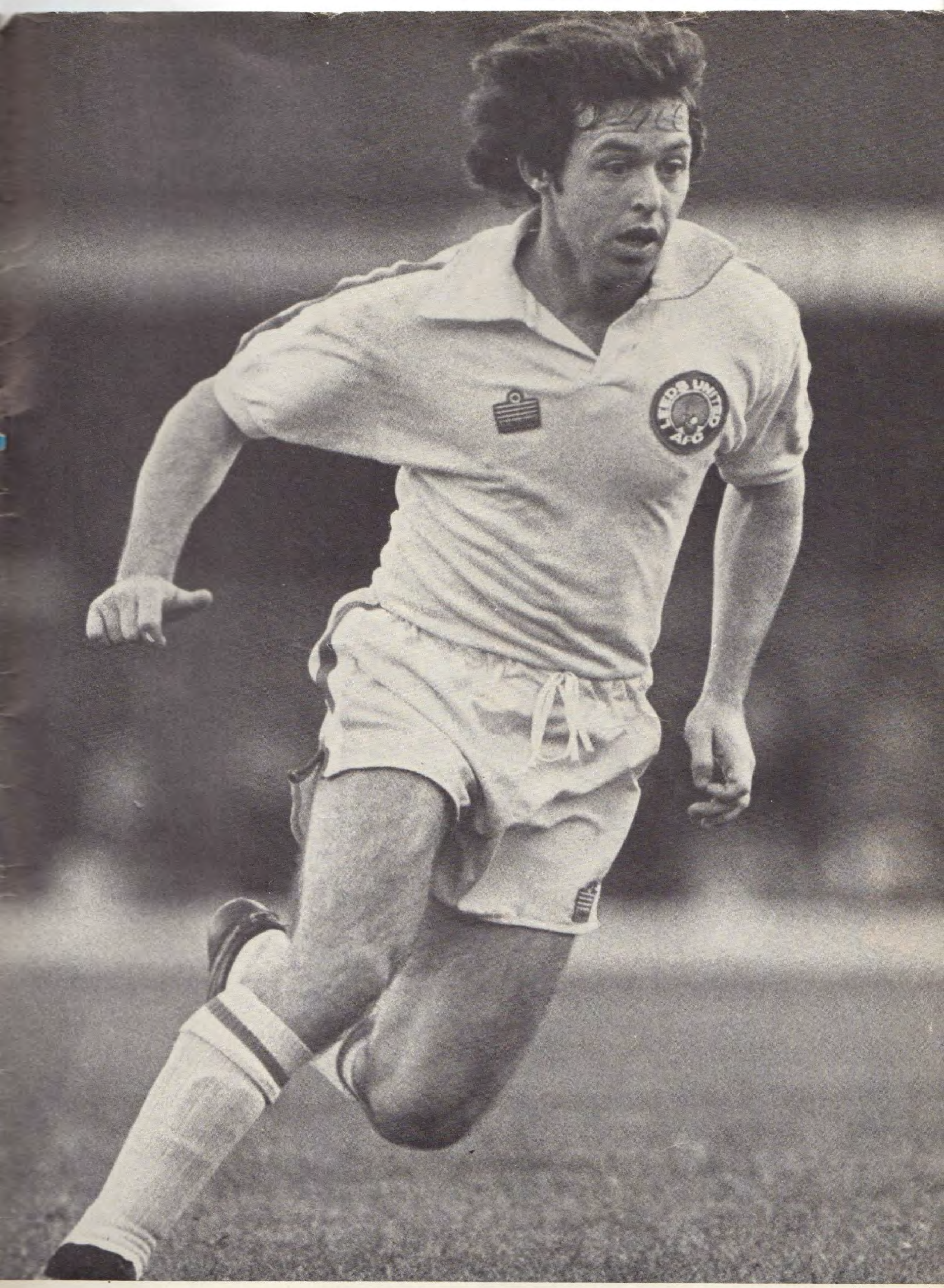
Turkey-Hungary 2-3 & 0-5; Hungary-Rumania 1-0 & 0-4; Rumania-Turkey 2-1 & 0-2; NB. UEFA ruled that Turkey-Hungary and Rumania-Turkey should be 0-3 defeats for Turkey for infringements of the rules.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HUNGARY | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| Rumania | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Turkey | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 2 |

**Group 8**

Luxembourg-Switzerland 0-3 & 1-5; Switzerland-Italy 0-0 & 0-1; Luxembourg-Italy 0-3.
To be played (January 23, 1980): Italy v Luxembourg.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ITALY | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Switzerland | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| Luxembourg | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 0 |

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